

# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. I

October, 1896

No. 6

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## Magazine Memoranda.

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Mr. Thorvald Solberg, having recovered his health, will resume charge of our Library Department in September. Mr. Frederick W. Faxon, recently in charge, goes to London to manage our foreign agency until November next. He is so familiar with the needs of American libraries that he will be able to serve them efficiently, while abroad, in procuring or perfecting foreign sets. Mr. Solberg returns from a recent trip through Europe, thoroughly informed as to continental serials.

We invite correspondence concerning wants or contemplated purchases in magazines or society publications, and suggest to librarians, in view of the increasing scarcity of many sets, the wisdom of anticipating now the needs of the future in this line.

We have just published a book on Private International Law, which will interest students of government. **Dicey on the Conflict of Laws**, written by Prof. A. V. Dicey, of Oxford, edited with American notes by Prof. J. B. Moore, of Columbia University, N. Y., and printed in this country under the international copyright law. Price in law sheep binding, \$6.50 NET.

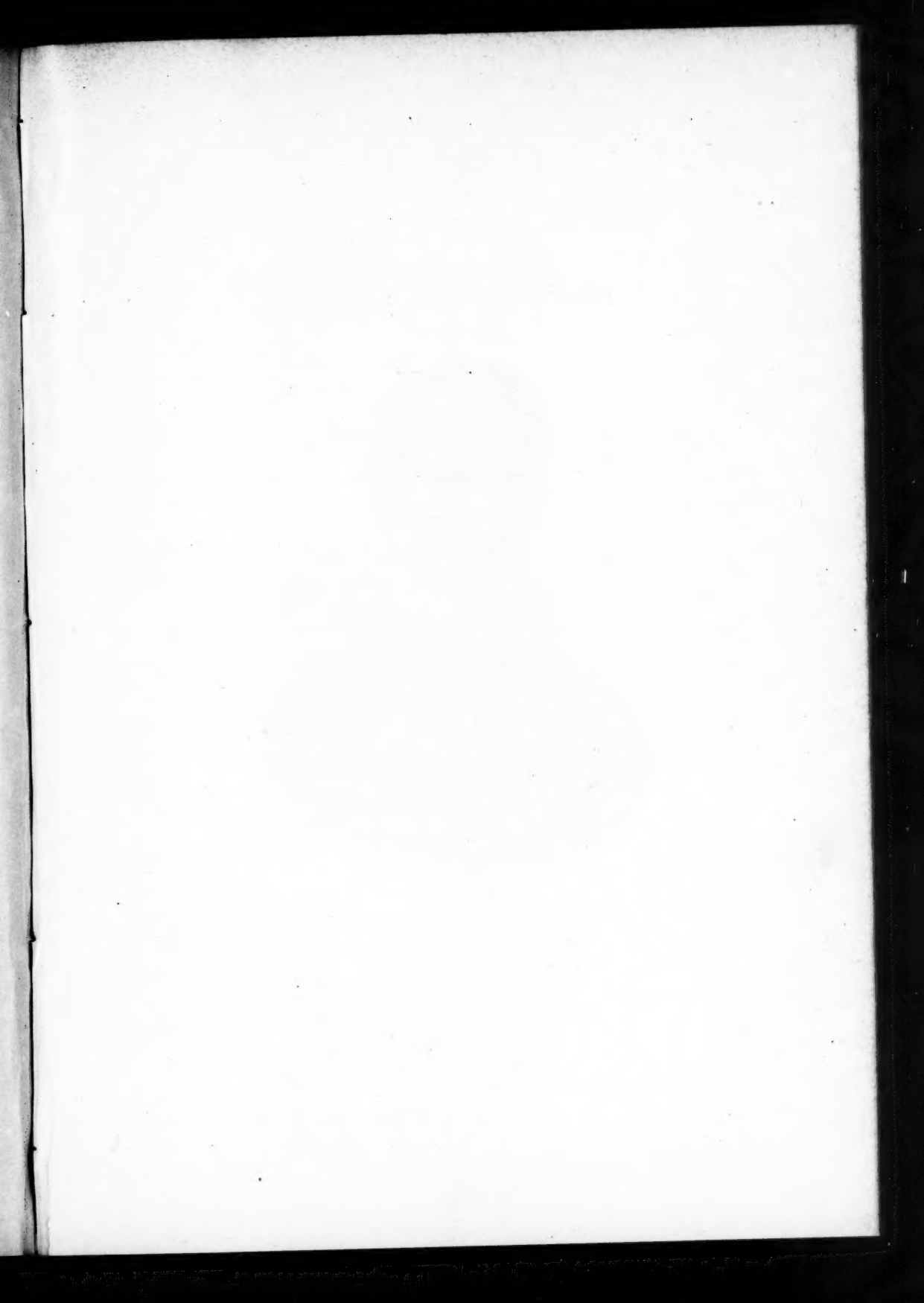
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**William H. Brett**  
President of the American Library Association



# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. I

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## A. L. A. Library Primer.

(Under revision)

### Continuation of glossary of library terms

(Alice B. Kroeger, librarian Drexel institute, Philadelphia)

**Reference book**—1. Reference book proper, to be consulted for definite points of information (rather than read through) and arranged with explicit reference to ease in finding specific facts.

2. Books not allowed to circulate but kept for reference only.

3. Books accessible to the public. *Richardson.*

**Reference library**—A library where the books may not be taken from the building but are for consultation only.

**Reference list**—A list of the books and articles on some subject referring to all the available reading-matter on it in the library, usually subdivided by topics so as to make it more useful.

**Reference work**—That branch of the library's administration which includes the assistance given to readers in their search for information on various subjects.

**Registration**—The act of recording in a register the names of applicants for the use of the library.

**Registration book or Borrower's register**—A list of all borrowers kept in the order of their application by numbers which are assigned also to their reader's cards.

**Relative location**—See movable location.

**Rudolph continuous indexer**—A cabinet for storing the entries of a catalog for the use of the public, in which the entries are inserted in a series of leaves of press board which revolve around a pair of hexagonal drums.

**Sale duplicates**—The extra copies of volumes which a library does not need and wishes to dispose of by sale or exchange.

**School-district library**—A library administered by school officials and made free of access to the people of the community.

**Section**—See Signature.

**See also reference**—Refers to a subject heading in the catalog under which references are made which may be of value in looking up the subject referred from.

**Serial**—A publication issued at regular or successive intervals in parts.

**Series**—1. A number of volumes issued successively by a publisher in uniform style with a collective title which usually appears at the head of the title-page or on the half-title.

2. A set of volumes issued successively as a periodical or transactions of a society, numbered separately to distinguish from a previously issued set.

**Series entry**—Entry of a number of separate works published under a collective title.

**Series note**—The name of a series enclosed in parenthesis placed on the catalog entry after the imprint.

- Shelf**—A board or slab placed horizontally between and supported by two uprights.
- Shelf-list**—A brief record of the books in a library as they stand on the shelves. The shelf-list thus arranged forms a condensed subject catalog but is used chiefly in taking the inventory of a library at stated intervals. Sometimes termed class-list.
- Shelf-list Sheets or Shelf-sheets**—The sheets on which the shelf-list is sometimes made.
- Signature**—1. One of the folded, printed sheets which forms part of a book. Also called section.  
2. The figure or letter placed by the printer at the bottom of the first page of each section, to indicate its order to the binder.
- Size notation**—The designation of the size of a book by means of the number of the fold, the letter of the size, or by actual measurement.
- Specific cross-reference**—Reference to a specific book in the catalog.
- Specific entry**—Registry of a book under a heading which expresses its special subject as distinguished from entering it in a class which includes that subject. *Cutter.*
- Stack**—A series of double-faced book-cases grouped in one room, usually placed as close together as possible to allow of compact storage of books. The stack may be one or more stories high, as, a "five-storied stack."
- State library**—A library supported by a state and located at the capital of a state chiefly for the use of its executive, legislative and judicial departments.
- Subject**—The theme or themes of a book.
- Subject-entry**—Registry under the name selected by the cataloger to indicate the subject. *Cutter.*
- Subject-heading**—A heading under which are entered all the books relating to a subject.
- Subject-word-entry**—Entry made under a word of the title which indicates the subject of the book. *Cutter.*
- Subscription library**—A library that is open to any one on payment of a fee.
- Syndetic**—Applied to that kind of dictionary catalog which connects its entries by means of cross references so as to form a whole.
- Systematic catalog**—A subject catalog made by class-entry and the classes are arranged in logical order according to some system of classification.
- Three-quarter binding**—A binding with leather back and corners of extra width.
- Tier**—A row of shelves placed one above another between two uprights and reaching from the floor to the top of shelving.
- Time numbers**—A series of book numbers designed to preserve the arrangement of books on the shelves in chronological order in distinction to the author or alphabetical order.
- Title**—In the broader sense includes heading, title proper and imprint; in the narrower, it is the name of the book given by the author on the title-page, omitting the imprint, but including names of editors, translators, etc. *Cutter.*
- Title-entry**—Entry under some word of the title, usually the first word not an article.
- Title-page**—The page at the front of a book or printed work, which contains its full title and usually gives author's name, publisher, place and date of publication.
- Traveling library**—A collection of 50 or 100 books which may be lent for a limited period to responsible borrowers on payment of a nominal fee to cover expenses of transportation, etc.
- Two-book system**—A system by which a library permits two books to be drawn at a time or on different days if the reader wishes, usually with the provision that only one book may be a novel.
- Uncut**—A book is uncut when it has untrimmed edges. If the edges have

been opened with a paper knife without trimming the margin, it is said to be opened but is uncut.

**Verso**—The second or any succeeding left-hand page; a page of even number.

**Volume**—A book distinguished from other books or other volumes of the same work by having its own title, paging and register. *Cutter.*

**Volume number**—Added to the book number to distinguish the different volumes of the same work.

**Withdrawal book**—A book containing the full record of books withdrawn for any cause from a library.

## Appendix E

### Library tools (Under revision)

Prepared by Mary W. Plummer, director of library department of Pratt institute.

**Receiving and entering books; requires** pencil with colored lead (for checking). Small blank book for counter charges. Table of the 1000 classification heads. Entry ledger or accessions book.

**Book numbers and cataloging; requires** table of Cutter book numbers. Index size catalog cards. Catalog drawer, or box with rod and lid.

**Cataloging; requires** red ink, for headings. Blue ink for call numbers. Erasers (ink and pencil). Hand-printed labels for catalog drawers.

**Aids to catalogers:** American library association list of subject headings for use in dictionary catalogs. B. Library bureau. 1895. \$2.

American library association cataloging rules.

Boston (Mass.) library bureau. Classified illustrated catalog; a hand-book of library and office fittings and supplies. B. library bureau. 1895.

Cleveland (O.) public library. Alphabetic catalog of the English books in the circulating department; authors, titles and subjects. Cleveland, O. 1889. \$1.

Cutter, C: A. Expansive classification, Pt. 1. First six classifications. B. Cutter. 1891-93.

Cutter, C: A. Rules for a dictionary catalog. Ed. 3. Wash. Govt. printing office, 1891. (U. S. Bur. of education. Special report on public libraries, Part II. Sent free.)

Cutter, C: A. Table of book numbers.

Detroit (Mich.) public library. General catalog; 1st supplement. 1889-93. Detroit. 1894.

Dewey, Melvil. Abridged classification and relative index for libraries, clippings, notes, etc. B. Library Bureau. c 1894. \$1.50 nt.

Dewey, Melvil. Library school rules; card catalog rules; accession book rules; shelf list rules. B. Library Bureau. 1892. paper \$1, ½ mo. \$2, full mo. \$2.50.

Library journal; monthly; journal of the American library association. 1876-date.

Library journal, index to; v 1-20, \$1.50. Not out.

Milwaukee (Wis.) public library. Quarterly index of additions. 1886-date. Milwaukee. 1888. \$1 per yr. bound, .50 yr. subscription.

**Shelf-list and inventory; requires** index size shelf-list cards. Drawer or box with rod and lid, for shelf-list. Small blank book for recording books missing at time of inventory.

**Mechanical preparation of books for the shelves, and binding; requires** rubber stamp to stamp library ownership; labels; mucilage; paste; tissue-paper; cheesecloth; book muslin, dark; blank-book for recording books sent to binder; slips of paper; binding ruler; paper for covering pamphlets; L. B. book support.

**Registration; requires** register for borrowers, with pledge, and alphabetical index; cards for borrowers; small book for keeping trace of unpaid fines and damages, arranged by date when book became due or loss was incurred.

**Charging-system;** *requires* pockets (if borrower is to keep his card); book-cards; borrowers' cards; dating-slips; dating-stamps.

**Reading-room and reference-room work;** *requires* cards for check-list of periodicals; paper for binding current numbers of magazines, unless ready-made binders are used; cardboard for lists; slips for subject-index; Athenaeum newspaper file; Atwater newspaper file; Neilson binders.

**Helps in reference-room work:** Boston public library, bulletin giving lists of historical novels; Denver public library, bulletin giving reading lists; Los Angeles public library, bulletin giving reading lists; Milwaukee public library, quarterly index, giving reading lists; Philadelphia mercantile library, bulletin giving same, and various reading lists; Providence library; monthly reference lists; Salem public library, bulletin, giving reading lists; San Francisco mercantile library, classified list English prose fiction.

**Also Annual literary index;** 1892-94, including periodicals, American and English; essays, book-chapters, etc., with author index, bibliographies and necrology, by W. I. Fletcher & R. R. Bowker: v 1-3, 3 v. N.Y. Pub. weekly, \$3.50 ea.

Fletcher, W. I. "A. L. A.," an index to general literature, biographical, historical and literary, essays and sketches, reports and publications of boards and societies dealing with education, health, labor, charities and corrections, etc. . . B. Houghton. 1892. \$5.

Fletcher, W. I: Poole's index to periodical literature: the second supplement from Ja. 1887-Ja. 1892. . . B. Houghton. 1893. \$10.80.

Poole, W. F: Index to periodical literature, 3d. ed. brought down to January, 1882. . . B. Osgood. 1882. \$14.50.

Poole, W. F: & Fletcher, W. I. Poole's index to periodical literature: the first supplement from Ja. 1882-Ja.

1887. . . B. Houghton. 1888. \$9.

For continuation, see Fletcher. St. Nicholas. Index, v 1-21. Camb. Griswold. 1894. \$1.25 nt.

**Selecting and ordering books;** *requires* slips for order list and received list.

**Helps in selecting books:** American catalog. 1876-90. 3 v. in 4. N. Y. Publishers' weekly, 1880-91.

Annual American catalog. 1886-date; being the full titles, with descriptive notes, of all books recorded in Publishers' weekly, 1886-date, with author, title and subject index; publishers' annual lists and directory of publishers. N. Y. Pub. weekly. \$5 per vol.

Class list of books for school libraries. (In Regents' bulletin, No. 6. Aug. 1891.)

Critic; a weekly review of literature and the arts. N. Y. 287 Fourth ave. \$3 per yr.

Dial; a semi-monthly journal of literary criticism, discussion and information. Chic. 315 Wabash ave. \$2 per yr.

Griswold, W: McC. comp. Descriptive list of novels. Camb. Griswold, 1890. \$8 nt.

Hardy, G: E. 500 books for the young. Scribner, N. Y. 1892. cl. 50 cts.

Hewins, C. M. comp. Books for the young. Leypoldt, Park Row, N. Y. Pub. weekly. 1884.

Leypoldt, A. H. & Iles, G: ed. List of books for girls and women and their clubs; with descriptive and critical notes and a list of periodicals, and hints for girls' and women's clubs. B. Library Bureau. \$1 nt.

Nation; a weekly journal devoted to politics, literature, science and art. N. Y. 208 Broadway. \$3 per year.

New Book list; (monthly) L. Library Bureau. 1896. \$1 per yr.

Publishers' Weekly; the American book trade journal. N. Y. 59 Duane st. \$3 per yr.

Sargent, J: F. comp. Reading for the young; a classified and annota-



ted catalog with an alphabetical author index. B. Library Bureau. \$1.

Saturday review; (weekly.) L. 38 Southampton st. Strand. 30s. 4d. per year.

Sawin, J. M. Annual list of books for young people. Sawin. Prov. R. I. 1885-91.

Sonnenschein, W: S. Best books: a reader's guide to the choice of the best available books. . . in every department of science, art and literature, with the dates of the first and last editions and the price, size, and publisher's name of each book: a contribution toward systematic bibliography. London. Sonnenschein. \$9.

Sonnenschein, W: S. Readers' guide to contemporary literature, being the first supplement to the "Best Books," with complete author and subject index. London. Sonnenschein. 1895.

Spectator: weekly. L. £1. 10s. 6d. per yr.

U. S. Bureau of education; Catalog of A. L. A. library; 5,000v. for a popular library, selected by the American Library association and shown at the World's Columbian Exposition. Wash. Govt. 1893.

### Comments on A. L. A. Primer

**Chapter 2.**—Emphasize the point of seeking aid and advice from a small public library. Visit several such libraries, the smaller the better, if you are starting on a small scale. The large libraries have of necessity many forms, blanks and processes, which are not necessary in a small library. I know of one instance where the directors of a library visited the largest library in their section of the country and one of the largest in the United States, and then proceeded to copy the blanks. The consequence was the application blank was four times as large as necessary and was almost as ironclad as a chattel mortgage.

It is an unfortunate fact but it is none the less true, that in visiting a library the seeker after knowledge is more inclined to copy the mistakes of management and errors in details than anything else. There are more of these in large libraries than in small libraries, for the simple reason that the large libraries cannot mend their ways many times where they would. The numerous small libraries starting up through the country are much the best patterns for starting a library. It would be a good thing if we could give the earmarks of a live librarian, one up to the times and having the latest and best methods, but such cannot be done.

I should decrease the proportion of religion in the general estimate of a library and increase the general works. Of the 16 per cent given to first four of the classes there listed, I should prefer the following: General works .04; Philosophy .01; Religion .02; Sociology .09. I think that in these times it is far more important to have Sociology .09 and Religion .02, than to have Religion .05 and Sociology .06.

G. E. WIRE, M. D.

A bookmark of light weight paper (2 1-2 in. by 7 in.) printed in plain type, with good sized type used in the headlines, has been found a very practical and useful little luxury in the Withers public library. One side is devoted to quotations on books and reading, which many of our patrons have committed to memory. The other side is devoted to extracts from our "State Law," "City Ordinance," "Rules and Regulations," in regard to the penalties for injury to books, papers, etc.; also the most important rules for the circulation of books and the hours of opening. The bookmarks are inexpensive and more than pay for themselves, as now few books are brought in with turned down leaves and there certainly is a general improvement in the use of books. We adopted the idea from the Peoria public library where they have been in use for some time with equal satisfaction.

EVVA L. MOORE.

## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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THE meeting of the A. L. A. at Cleveland pushes the other meetings very closely for first place in point of interest, attendance, pleasure, and profit. There were more new faces at this meeting than we remember to have seen before at any meeting. The papers and discussions were not tedious and, for the most part, people talked to the point and stopped when they reached it. The officers in charge have reason to rejoice at the very pleasurable time, which was largely due to their efforts.

THE new officers of the A. L. A. have the best wishes of all concerned in its welfare, which will be heartily expressed by cordial coöperation in their work for the upbuilding of the library profession. Mr Brett has been ready always to give his time and strength to any plan to help forward the good of the library world, and the library profession will not be slow to return to him in his new position the same help which he has so freely bestowed on others. Mr Hayes has always been a warm friend of library interests, and it will be a helpful thing for the association to have as secretary a man who,

while keeping in touch with the progress of the library profession, has also been a man of affairs in the world at large. We present elsewhere portraits of the president and secretary with short sketches of each.

THE tone of President Dana's address at Cleveland may seem at first hearing to be pessimistic, but when taken as a whole and considered as the utterances of the man, much helpfulness may be derived from it. People assembled at a public meeting are usually regaled with eulogies on themselves and their work. It is a positive good, therefore, that occasionally someone should point out the faults and failings. No one can deny that "looking from the other side" there is room for just complaint, and many mistakes of head and heart come from a too well satisfied condition of mind with one's work and surroundings. A certain amount of dissatisfaction is necessary to all progress, and librarians as well as other people need the stimulus of "greater heights beyond our line that must yet be attained."

FOR the first time in the history of the A. L. A. a bookseller, as such, had a definite time and place on the program. There were a greater number of the craft at Cleveland than has ever attended a meeting before. A better and larger display of books was presented than has been done before. Topics of interest to both were discussed—material, bindings, work, prices, arrangement of stock, and time and means of ordering. All this indicates a better understanding of the work on the part of the book people, and promises truer relations between them and the libraries than have existed before.

THE growing interest among librarians and literary workers in the Cleveland cumulative index, shows the need that has existed of a monthly record of this kind. It is a work that in a short time will make innumerable friends. The plan pursued in its preparation is calculated to make it symmetrical and systematic, and therefore extremely



valuable. Three trained catalogers, chosen on account of well proven ability, are constantly at work on it in the Cleveland public library. They work in consultation, and go over the ground to be covered, carefully and in harmony. This means a knowledge by each of them of the several divisions, and of the work as a whole. The strength of the several parts is thus kept symmetrical and no one part overshadows another in style or completeness. The work is not retarded by waiting for delayed matter at a distance, but goes on systematically to a finish. This work deserves the support, not only of the busy librarian, who cannot take the time to prepare his reference lists as he would like to have them, but also of the small library that has any considerable amount of periodical literature. Book people in general will find it exceedingly valuable as a current index, and the cumulative number at the close of the year will give in a convenient form all the noted topics discussed in over fifty leading periodicals for the year.

It is an outgrowth of a system of reference work carried on in the Cleveland public library for several years, and now published on account of the expressed wish of many literary workers for an index that would be up to date and on hand when most needed. While an annual index is a valuable and necessary thing in library work, it does not furnish information at the time certain topics are up for discussion, and it often happens that when an annual index makes its appearance, topics of the day are then based on matters not treated of at all in its pages.

WHILE the meeting at Cleveland was a success from every point, it also gives room for the question, Is the A. L. A. living up to its opportunities? Is its influence as far reaching and as inspiring as it should be? While all who are in contact with the association feel and acknowledge its helpfulness, their number is a very small per cent of all the library workers in the country. There are more than 5,000 libraries in the

United States and Canada, and yet there were less than 300 libraries represented at Cleveland. That the meeting at Cleveland was so largely attended; was the result of the indefatigable work of a few members, and especially of the retiring secretary. Prompted by the A. L. A. spirit of helpfulness, he spent largely of his own time and means to work up an interest in the matter, and yet was not able to meet all the opportunities which presented themselves for effective work. His obligation to his own library was strained to the utmost to get the time to do the work which he accomplished, while it represents an actual expenditure of his own means of a considerable amount, and one can not be surprised that he felt unable to assume the duties longer. This condition ought not to exist in such a body as the A. L. A.

The secretary ought to be able to respond to all calls for his presence and help as a representative of the A. L. A. at library meetings in different states, and the expense of it should be borne by the association. A wonderful work can be done in the next few years by sending out wherever needed, an enthusiastic representative of the A. L. A. to present its advantages and opportunities. PUBLIC LIBRARIES hopes to see the executive board take such action soon as will relieve Mr Hayes of the embarrassments which hampered Mr. Elmendorf, and in this it voices the sentiment of a majority of fair-minded library workers. The additions to the membership of the association which will be made by helping Mr Hayes to do the work he is capable of doing in the library field, will more than cover the cost, beside the inestimable help it will be to the library cause. And lastly, the A. L. A. is not a penurious beggar to ask any man to spend his own money for it, however much he may have. The A. L. A. should be to everyone what it is to a few—an inspiration, a source of helpfulness, a lofty standard to lead the way to higher and better things in the library world.

**American Library Association**  
**Eighteenth General Conference, Cleveland**  
**and Mackinaw**

September 1-11, 1896

Tuesday morning, September 1, clear and bright, brought to Cleveland a large body of enthusiastic, and for the most part, good-natured people. The party from Chicago was the first to arrive, although many librarians who had gone independently were already in the city. The bunting and other decorations displayed, gave a feeling of elation to the travelers, though there was a silent question of why the pristine glory of the red, white and blue had departed. Later it was learned that these same colors had been doing duty for a whole month previous, in the different gatherings of other distinguished associations assembled to celebrate Cleveland's centennial. There was a good deal of wonder when the hotel which had been assigned as headquarters was reached, at the great crowd of every hue and kind. It was soon evident, however, that we were not the center of attraction as there seemed to be a steady stream toward an upper room. Soon word was passed that William J. Bryan was shaking hands with his fellow-citizens and whether from curiosity or a claim on the title, many of the librarians joined the procession and passed in review before the Boy Orator of the Platte. Mrs. Bryan, it might be remarked in passing, is one of an interested committee to sustain a system of traveling libraries in Nebraska. About noon the eastern librarians arrived and as the other guests of the hotel departed, the personnel soon assumed a familiar appearance and while never before were so many new workers at a convention, the A. L. A. was soon in evidence. Tuesday afternoon was spent in visiting points of interest around the city, the several libraries, and in renewing acquaintance between members who had met before. The Case library was an object of interest with its bright, clean rooms, and the evident air of thrift, if one may use the word regard-

ing libraries, which seemed to pervade the place. Chas. H. Orr, the librarian, and his pleasant assistant, Miss Fitch, were ready at all times to show the librarians around and bring to notice the interesting things to be seen in the library.

Peter F. Neff, of the Western Reserve, has one of the finest collections of historical material that the West possesses. As he kindly showed the visitors through, one unconsciously felt the small part of all that exists in our day. The collection of historical records, manuscripts, state documents of United States and the separate states is very valuable. The library is badly cramped for room, but in a short time will have a new home where the display can be utilized to a better advantage.

The public library was thronged with visitors all the afternoon. It was decorated with flags and flowers, and the cordial welcome extended to all who entered made the place so attractive that many lingered here until too late to visit the other libraries. The arrangement of this library deserves the praise which was freely expressed by all, especially the plan of placing in each division the card catalog belonging to that class.

Tuesday night a reception to the visitors was held in the parlors of the Hollenden, and a delightful evening was spent in renewing old acquaintances and making new.

**Formal Opening**

The 18th general conference of the American Library Association was called to order on Wednesday, September 2, at 9 A. M., by President John Cotton Dana, librarian public library, Denver, Colo. The opening meeting was held in the hall of the Chamber of Commerce and proved much too large for even these commodious quarters. Many people were not able to enter the hall, and a large number were compelled to stand during most of the exercises. Mr. Dana's address was one of the most widely discussed features of the entire meeting. It will repay a thorough and careful reading by all

thoughtful librarians who have the good of the library cause of the future at heart. It was strong, straightforward, honest and timely. While one may differ as to the correctness of some of the conclusions, he cannot help but assent to the truth of most of the sentiments expressed. He said in part:

**Hear the other side**

Library buildings are, almost without exception, poorly adapted to their purpose. The books within them are very largely fiction of a low grade. The people who use these books are, a good proportion of them, lazy, idly curious, and more concerned to get the last flashy novel than to improve themselves or any one else. There are a few libraries that are not open to some of the charges set against them. The purposeless pettiness of the great mass of popular reading, the lack of aim or effort in many of the frequenters of the public library, the triviality of much of its educational work, are all counts in the indictment. So too are the facts that the library relieves the idle and incompetent from the necessity of going to work to earn money for books, that it checks the tendency toward book collecting, and that it tends to lead parents to become indifferent to their children's reading, "just as the free public school may lead them to be indifferent to their formal education."

It is well to know the case against the library, that more effort may be made to justify the library calling, and to make the library itself of more use in the world. To do this, the librarian must realize that the library is good only as he makes it so, that he himself is of no importance in his community by virtue of his office alone, and that he had best divest himself of all the trappings of self-satisfaction and awaken to a sense of sins of omission, of things undone or ill done.

Let the librarian, then, who would make the charge of the other side void and of no effect, look first to his own personal growth and beware of the narrowing effects of too much books; let him be social; let him be outspoken on subjects

of liberal management; let him support, work with, and advertise the A. L. A.; let him be in touch with the library section of the N. E. A., and enlist the teachers in the service of the library; let him win the support of the local book and newsdealer, and encourage the ownership of books; let him interest in his library local book lovers, students, scholars, and men of affairs; let him recognize and aid in all ways possible the clubs, associations, and societies of his town, clergymen, editors, and even Sunday-school libraries; let him make his own library part of the life of his community, and let him also be quick to recognize his fellow-workers, and to extend all aid and support to other libraries. He will be all the more eager to do this, because only by so doing can he and his fellows become of importance in the world, and gain that position of dignity and influence to which their calling would seem to entitle them. Librarians now are of not much importance in the world of affairs. A raising of the standard of librarianship by inspiring and advocating in modern methods every humblest librarian in every smallest community will do more than anything else to make the title "librarian," one which will bring its bearer respect and influence wherever it is worn.

The president's address was followed by another from J. N. Larned, of the Buffalo library, which was one of his usual scholarly and masterly efforts. He chose as his subject:

**Prospect and retrospect in the closing years of the century**

and sought to look at the present age as it will appear to philosophic students of the future. They will find, in his opinion, that the dominant processes of civilization in modern times, which have tended to what may be called the widening of life, have been so enormously accelerated in recent years, and have precipitated their later effects upon us so suddenly and rapidly that they have produced a peculiar shallowness and vulgarity in the culture of the period.

The facility of communication to which the world has now attained is a revolutionary influence not adequately understood. It has stripped commerce of the dignity which used to belong to it as a field of heroic adventure and as the most important of scientific schools, and the mercenary motives which actuate it are shown bare to the sight in their naked vulgarity. It has made the democracy of free countries, which was only potential even down to the generation of our fathers, a real, practical fact, both politically and socially, by making possible and easy the organization of combinations which was difficult or impossible before. It has brought us to the stage of social evolution at which a real popular opinion, half informed and unreasonable for the most part, but nevertheless a determined opinion formed by individual minds, appears wide awake, for the first time in human history—watchful of passing events and rising questions, and ready to act on them day by day, as they come. It is an absolutely new force in society, wholly different in kind as well as in degree from what passed for public opinion a century or half a century ago. It is eating like an acid into the substance of the great old political parties of every democratic nation, and the whole ancient structure of society is being dissolved by its action.

The old apparent stabilities are everywhere giving way, to be replaced by conditions of unstable equilibrium—the conditions in fact, which Nature in all her working identifies with organic life—and which promise, therefore, a vital and enduring constitution of society for the future. But we are in the chaotic interval, between a solidity that was crystalized in the classes and parties and churches of an inorganic society hitherto, and the elasticity of living tissue that will come into the substance of the social body hereafter. If the old order is dissolved by a fluid ease of intercourse and communication among its members, a new order will arise from the yet greater mobilities of a coming time.

Among temporary effects of the sudden widening of communication and travel within recent years, the vulgarizing of the newspaper press is the most disheartening of all. The common school, making possible readers, and the newspaper, inviting them to read, arrived together in the world at a conjunction which might have seemed to be a happy miracle for the universalizing of culture among the races of the West. If it could have been possible then to deal with newspapers as other educational agencies are dealt with; to invest them with definite moral responsibilities; to take away from them their mercenary motive; to endow them as colleges are endowed—if that could have been possible, to what imaginable degree of common culture might not Europe and America by this time be approaching? As it is, we are as we are today, disputing and striving to explain to one another a condition of society which shames all who think of it. The irresponsible reporter has in most cases dethroned the responsible editor and reigns in his place, making the daily literature on which most of us feed and tincture our minds. It is a monotoned literature, its one note flippancy, and its flippancy is infecting all popular literature and art.

But if the common mind of the age is trivialized and vulgarized by its newspapers and its commerce, it is being at the same time pricked to a new alertness, and faculties are being awakened in it that will some day answer the call to the higher uses. And the world was never before so alive with moral and intellectual energies working to that end. We are seeing the rise of an enterprise in education which rivals the enterprise of mechanical industry and trade. Books are being made to do considerably alone what books and newspapers ought rightly to be doing together. How to win readers of the general mass from unwholesome newspapers to wholesome books, or how to change the spirit of the common newspapers of the day from flippancy to sobriety, from the tone of the worst in



social manners and morals to the tone of the best, is the gravest pending problem of civilization. The zeal and the energy of free schools and free libraries can achieve the solution of it, and there is nothing else that can.

At the close of Mr Larned's address H. M. Utley of Detroit, extended a cordial invitation from Detroit to visit the city on the post conference trip.

A recess of a few moments was taken, and the audience moved around to secure, if possible, more comfortable positions in the crowded room.

The next exercise was presented by Bernard Green, superintendent of construction of the National library at Washington, D. C. Mr Green gave a very exhaustive description of the building, its fittings and purposes, which was copiously illustrated by wall drawings, and blue prints which were passed among the audience.

#### National library building

In the most comprehensive sense this is the largest, most monumental and beautiful, the best appointed, and therefore the grandest building that the world has yet erected for the sole purpose of a library. With but poor and incomplete examples of large library buildings to precede it, its design is necessarily based on theory and deduction rather than established principles, for there were none. Its plan is generic, affording the largest latitude for expansion and rearrangement to meet future indefinite needs.

The crowded condition of the library as early as 1872 called for more room, and new quarters began to be discussed in Congress, but no action was taken until 1886, when a separate building was provided for. Work began in 1887, but the plan and management were changed in 1888, and the present plan was adopted. Since then, operations have continued and the building is nearly finished at a total cost of six and a quarter millions of dollars. The long delay of Congress in coming to a conclusion was doubtless a blessing in the end, as it might not otherwise have

provided so munificently and effectively, and thus obtained the present magnificent result.

The building has been erected under the independent charge of General Thos. L. Casey, chief of equerries of the army. It is of three stories and cellar, with four open courts. The middle is occupied by the rotunda, 100 feet in diameter, and 125 feet high in the clear, crowned by the gilded dome. This rotunda is the public reading room and center of administration of the library proper. It is reached through the grand staircase hall from the main entrance. Around the rotunda or reading room are two tiers of alcoves so arranged with shelving as to provide 43 private study spaces for readers. Over these is a spacious public gallery, above which are eight semicircular windows of 32 feet diameter for lighting the reading room. Adjoining the octagon are three radiating book stacks, each nine stories or tiers in height. Two of these stacks will accommodate 800,000 volumes each, and the other 175,000, which, together with the shelving in the octagon alcoves, make a total of about 2,000,000 volumes.

The building is 470 feet by 340 feet on the ground, covering about three and three-quarter acres, and is about a quarter of a mile from the Capitol. The lower story is 14 feet high, the next 21, and the upper one 28 feet. These numbers being multiples of 7 feet, which is the height of the several stack stories, the main floors of the building coincide with the corresponding stack decks.

The plan of the building is perfectly symmetrical on the east and west axis and provides for the so-called central system of administration, similar to that of the British Museum. In the center of the reading room is the attendants' desk, inclosed by the catalog counter and containing all apparatus for communication and automatic transportation to the book stacks. Around this are three concentric circular rows of readers' tables, all visible from a raised station in the center, and accom-

modating 246 readers, allowing four feet of space to each. Twenty-four pneumatic tubes in the central desk communicate with the several decks in the stacks, the librarian's office, and the Capitol, carrying messages and serving also as speaking tubes. Electric telephones, etc., are also provided.

The building is solid and permanent in construction, and, of course, fireproof in the highest sense. Its exterior walls are of New Hampshire granite and the court walls of light enameled bricks and granite.

To librarians the most interesting feature is the book stacks, which are of an entirely new and special design for this building. Eighteen important requisites are fulfilled in their construction. They can be understood and appreciated only by being seen. The framework is of steel and cast iron, the decks of white marble slabs, and the shelves of light cold rolled steel bars as smooth as glass. An iron stairway and hydraulic elevator in the middle of the stack adds to the conveniences of internal communication.

A mechanical automatic book carrier consisting of a pair of endless cables conveying trays, runs vertically in a shaft down through the stack to the cellar, thence horizontally to a shaft leading up into the center of the reading room. The trays are of comb tooth form, engaging with toothed receiving and delivery plates, so that the cables run continuously 100 feet per minute, receiving and delivering books automatically.

Warming and ventilation of the building is by the indirect method with hot water coils. Fans are applied for occasional use for the stacks and reading room and may be used elsewhere if found desirable. All boilers, coal vaults, pumps, etc., are located entirely outside the building under ground.

A tunnel large enough for a man to walk through connects the library with the Capitol, and will contain an endless cable book carrier of capacity equal to a bound volume of newspapers. Telephone wires and the pneumatic tube

referred to will also run in this tunnel. By these means, members of Congress may communicate quickly and fully with the librarian and more promptly get information and books than can now be done with the library in the Capitol itself.

The building is extensively and beautifully enriched by the works of many of our best sculptors and painters, and no building in the world surpasses it in these particulars. All suitable spaces are occupied with fitting quotations and the names of the world's greatest men.

Next winter the structure will be completed in every particular and turned over to Congress for occupation by the library, within the time and cost originally estimated and fixed by law. Its capabilities and magnitude will not for some time be realized, and the question of its best use for the greatest good of the nation and of mankind must receive the most intelligent and studious consideration.

Mr Green was followed by F. A. Crandall, superintendent of public documents, Washington, D. C., on the never-failing topic of public documents and the new public document bill. Mr. Crandall said in part:

This office has been, from the first, over-pressed with routine work, overwhelmed with correspondence of more than one hundred letters a day, and constantly in contact with problems of legal interpretation and library practice for which no precedents were to be found. The organization was completed and work begun July 1, 1895. The statistics from that date to June 31, 1896 are:

Accumulations from various departments.....	252,602 vols.
New work from gov't printing office .....	143,091 vols.
Exchanges from libraries.....	31,321 "
Catalog copies, over.....	60,000 "

These were not all bound volumes, but were made up in part of pamphlets, bills, resolutions, etc. During the year the volumes distributed

To depository libraries.....	105,170 vols.
To libraries other than depositories.....	66,016 vols.



Works distributed on the order of  
members of Congress..... 13,580 vols.  
Sold..... 3,563 "  
To departments to complete files.. 1,134 "

There have been few complaints of books lost or mis-sent, and as all our sendings are by registered mail, we have been able in all cases to trace and deliver unaccounted for volumes. There is an impression throughout the country that a member of Congress can get as many books as he likes. This is a mistake. A ledger account is kept with each member, and he cannot get a copy beyond his allotment except by trading with some other member or by buying. As there is a fraction remaining over the congressional allotment, it is provided by law that these shall be sent to the superintendent of public documents for the use of libraries to be named by members of Congress and for sale. I have asked each senator and representative to name one library for this purpose. These form the list of "remainder" libraries and number about 240. They have one advantage over the depositories, in that the books are bound in cloth and frequently furnished months and even years before the same books are ready for shipment to the depositories. There is a list of libraries entitled to receive publications of the United States Geographical Survey. There are about 600 of these. We have about 1,300 libraries to which we furnish regular supplies of public documents in greater or less number. We are always glad to be able to help all libraries to fill their sets of documents, or even furnish the whole set when we can do so. One very important work has been to supply various missing records to government departments. Not a single government department or bureau has a complete set, even of its own publications.

The most serious undertaking in which we have been engaged has been the preparation of the first annual catalog of our documents. The name, "comprehensive index," is a misleading title. It does not index any public document; but catalogs all those of the fifty-third

Congress up to the end of the fiscal year 1895. I have been of some use to the trained catalogers who have had charge of the work, as I represented the next most important party in interest, namely, the ignorant public, for which my qualifications were indisputable. The various knotty problems have been tried on me, on the theory that if they could be made clear to me they could be made clear to anyone else. If I could not be instructed up to the standard of the work, then the standard was simplified until it came within my limitations, and I can finally say that I understand nearly all of it. We have strong hopes that this catalog will be found more convenient and valuable than any previous catalog of public documents, and are pushing the work on the new volume on the same plan. This volume will cover the work along to the end of the fiscal year 1896.

The first part of the so-called "consolidated index" is partly complete in manuscript. This, also, practically speaking, is a catalog, but as it will take the place of the various so-called indexes that have since the 30th Congress appeared in the front of the volume of congressional documents, it is thought best to retain the old name. The index will practically be a finding list for congressional documents proper, and will not treat of public documents in general.

The library work of our office, which has included the exchanges and care of duplicates, has been enormous and the number of assistants small, but a surprising amount of work has been accomplished. A reference library of 1,200 volumes has been established and a quarter of a million duplicates have been made ready for use. It does not seem an extravagant estimate to say that this government property thus reclaimed is worth half a million dollars. The printing and binding alone cost that much, while the cost of compilation is beyond computation. An important part of our work has been the finding of all sorts of books for all sorts of people. We have had applications

for pretty much everything the Government has published since Washington's inauguration in 1789, and certainly for many things that the Government has never published. A recent letter from a citizen in the West asks how he can get copies of the *Statesman's* year book without paying \$3.00 apiece; another wants a copy of Coin's Financial School. Such applications are easily disposed of; but to all applications for public documents, no matter how old or obscure, we give our most serious attention. In the absence of catalogs, and in view of the eccentric methods of publication adopted by some government officials, this work of looking up old documents is extremely difficult.

It was a matter of serious disappointment that we were unable to secure the passage of the bill to improve printing and binding methods of the public documents. These methods are what they might be expected to be, in view of the fact that they are devised by the heads of 120 different publishing bureaus, few of whom have had any training in bookmaking, each of whom acts for himself without any central supervision. What was proposed in the new bill was to establish by law a few general principles recognized by librarians and publishers as sound, and to which no public bureau would have much difficulty in conforming. It passed the House and there was no opposition to it in the Senate; but its members were so busy with other matters which they thought were more important, that they failed to take it up. I have no doubt of the passage of the bill the next session. It will be the first step in the improvement of the document service of the government, and a very important one.

If I were to attempt to draw a literary moral from the first year's experience of the document office, I would probably ask to be credited with doing something to offset the flood of fiction which is giving libraries so much concern. Possibly, however, the inundation of public documents may lead to results more terrible than fiction reading. We send out a good deal of pure

imagination ourselves in the Congressional Record and some other publications, and many librarians help us by stowing away the more matter-of-fact public documents where nobody can get them. C. A. Cutter has proposed, and the Massachusetts library club has approved, a proposition that, instead of the present depository method, by which everything published is given to all libraries alike, the plan to be adopted of each public library asking for such documents as it needs and can care for. I give my own very hearty approval of this plan, but it can only be carried out by legislation. Under Mr Cutter's plan it could in a very few years be found which sort of public documents were in most demand and the size of the editions published could be gauged correctly. Then it would not so often be the case as it now is that books which so few want are printed in great numbers, while others for which there is a most eager demand, are in limited supplies.

At the close of Mr Crandall's paper R. R. Bowker called attention to the report of the committee on public documents, which had already been printed. He also presented the following resolutions to the association which were adopted: Approval of the supplementary public document bill; extending the thanks of the association to George D. Perkins of Iowa, for his efforts in behalf of the bill; approval of the separation of the copyright office from the National library; condemning political influence in the administration of library affairs.

The morning having been taken up with these discussions, and the room being uncomfortably filled with people, it was decided to adjourn until afternoon, when, it was announced, the meeting would be held in the Army and Navy building, on Superior street.

The second session began promptly at 2:30 in the hall of the Army and Navy building, which was none too large to hold the people assembled. After some discussion of the appointment of a committee to confer with the con-

gressional committee on the National library, on the reorganization of that institution, the matter was tabled. The first exercise was the presentation of a paper by George Iles, Montreal, on

#### Appraisal of literature

A typical American museum of twenty years ago contained valuable specimens drawn from earth, air and ocean. It had received rich gifts both from science and art; but the general effect of it was not alluring; it repelled ordinary mortals. Only the student could find meat and drink in the shelves and cases. There has been a marvelous change from dullness to fascination in our day. As one enters the museum at Washington, at Cambridge, at New York, he is held by one vivid interest after another until he is compelled with regret to leave. Much of this change must be credited to discoveries and inventions in the past twenty years that have increased the capital of museums. Much also has been done by giving collections a reasoned order. But an improvement equal to any other in importance has been the labeling of every specimen fully and clearly, instead of bestowing only its name. The curator has taken the printer for his partner and sought to say everything that may awaken the visitor's interest, and answer every question he is likely to ask. We owe gratitude to the man who enables a specimen to tell its story, explain whence it came, what it is good for, and its place in the great scheme of interpretation.

While the museum has been advancing in wealth and in methods of making that wealth available to the plain people, the public library has borne it fraternal company in the service of popular culture. As the museum has been enriched by new gifts from the explorer, the discoverer, the inventor, so has the public library received new wealth in the provinces of art and science, scholarship and research, history, poetry and romance. And better modes of classifying its treasures, new and old, improvement in every detail of administration, have brought the

public library to vastly extended usefulness, and, notably, in the coöperation more and more intimate which has in consequence sprung up between it and the museum.

It is with regard to this matter of the label that the methods of the museum are distinctly in advance of those of its neighbor and friend, the public library. The curator has put so much light and color into his ticket that the dry bones of his cases move and live; the librarian still shows a catalog of mere titles which the ordinary reader runs over much as he might a series of tickets in a museum twenty years ago. Great treasures are undoubtedly heaped up in the shelves before him, but he takes the fact very largely upon trust.

In the unrespecting catalog no authority is before or after another. Francis Parkman and a catchpenny historical compiler touch elbows. There should be an opportunity to choose books for the best reason possible. Readers cannot rely on the recommendation of a friend or the direction of a laudatory advertisement. It is not always the most popular author who deserves popularity. Popular education will receive an immense impulse when guidance of trustworthy judges of literature is rendered to the plain people in a brief, descriptive, critical and comparative note, duly signed and dated to be carried within the book itself, and also to follow the title card in the public library. Thus the reader will be able to see the relative value of books on all subjects in the library.

The label in the museum is descriptive purely. The book note must be not only descriptive but critical, and so ably and justly critical as to commend itself to every informed mind. One advantage rests with the appraiser of literature, his notes can serve at once hundreds of public libraries and thousands of isolated students. It has been objected that the proper place for notes of this quality would be in bibliographies and not on cards in the library catalog. Few readers would take the trouble to find them in bibliographies,

whereas a reader could not very well dodge a note if it stood before him in the catalog. Library machinery as it stands, is excellent as machinery. It can take on a new character and fresh usefulness when its mechanism includes the best available judgments of the stores committed to its keeping.

This appraisal of the vast and swiftly extending field of literature can only be obtained by piecemeal. Let one department of literature be worthily passed upon, and we shall soon know whether the public wishes to have our plans carried further. We must try to educate the people to require the aid we can render them, and in this regard nothing is freighted with more promise than the alliances that are springing up between the public library and the public schools.

Success of literary appraisal will turn upon the adoption of common sense methods. A partnership with some leading publisher should be formed. It is well to qualify opinions as to what people ought to want, by cool perceptions of what they really do want, as proved by what they buy and pay for. It would be well to accept no aid that is not fully subject to the direction or approval of this association's publishing committee. The public library has waited a long time for its note of guidance; let it wait as much longer as may be necessary to get that note in sensible form of the right quality, and first of all with respect to such books as best deserve the golden scales we are trying to set up.

Mr Iles' paper was followed by the reports from the different boards and committees. The executive board reported first, on the proposed European trip. The invitation from the L. A. U. K. had been accepted and the matter was up for discussion. The remarks on this subject were very pointed, and the interest manifested in the subject was certainly profound. After a considerable amount of what might be termed firing in the air, the matter was referred to a committee to make a report later in the season. The board

also reported concerning the Library primer. A committee was appointed to look after the matter of the revision and distribution and take whatever steps seemed best, in their judgment, to dispose of the matter finally. The treasury report, submitted by Mr Anderson, acting treasurer, showed the A. L. A. to be in a very prosperous condition. The membership had increased to nearly 400, and a good, round sum over expenses was reported in the treasury. The report on necrology showed a loss of three members in the past year: Jessie Allen, of Omaha; Bessie R. Mackay, of Philadelphia, and R. C. Woodward, Springfield, O. Proper eulogies of these members will appear in the proceedings.

Caroline M. Hewins presented the report on gifts and bequests, which showed a most gratifying condition of generosity toward the library movement in various parts of the country. The report is too long and too varied to attempt to give any large part of it; but it will be found in the published proceedings of the association. A summary of it gives \$2,500,000 in money; \$1,000,000 in buildings; 100,000 volumes, besides pictures, statues, bric a-brac, and manuscripts. A committee, of one from each state, was suggested to be responsible for the news concerning gifts to libraries of that state, and all these items are to be sent to the chairman of the committee before the annual meeting of the A. L. A.

The resolution concerning the attitude of the A. L. A. toward the policy of the National library at Washington again brought on a lively discussion; the matter was finally referred to a committee to report later in the session.

Wednesday evening was the most thoroughly enjoyable evening spent in Cleveland. The Rowfant Club opened their beautiful club house to convention delegates for the first time in its history, and the members of the A. L. A. were cordially and gracefully received by the president of the club. The club's collection of rare books and bindings, curios, pictures, and quaint



furniture formed interesting topics of conversation and led to a most delightful evening. The readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES will agree that the very interesting account of the Rowfant Club, by Librarian Orr, in our September number gives a true picture of the delights to be found within the walls of the Rowfant Club house. The entire house was placed at the disposal of the guests, and rare treasures were free to the inspection of all. Refreshments were served and the guests left regretfully at a late hour. The atmosphere of the place was charming, and one can readily believe that its popularity exceeds its bounds.

The session opened promptly Thursday morning at 9 o'clock. Notwithstanding a drenching rain the attendance was larger than at any previous time. After a few announcements the program opened with a paper by John Thompson, of the Philadelphia free library, on Traveling libraries. He reviewed the subject at length, speaking of its purposes and its advantages, not only in the rural districts, but also in larger towns; calling attention to the work which might be done in police stations, fire houses, and other city offices where many employees have long hours of enforced idleness, waiting to be called upon. Mr Thompson has promised a paper on this topic for PUBLIC LIBRARIES in the near future. A committee of five was appointed to collect and report statistics of traveling libraries for the next conference.

C: A. Cutter of the Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., who opened the talk upon Exhibitions of pictures and engravings, gave an account of recent successful ones in his own library. Mr Cutter urged the employment of this means of attracting people to the library, as it is needless to say this is the object of all such exhibitions. At Northampton they began by exhibiting the collection of photographs of mountain peaks collected by the Appalachian Mountain club, but have also held exhibitions of local collections and special loan collections gathered in the

town. He urged the organization of a local photographic club to join the photographic league, which is constantly taking views from which slides are made and sent around for exhibitions. He suggested the excellent opportunity afforded by the coming European trip, of taking along a kodak and getting views for the next winter's use. Mr Cutter strongly recommends a special room for such exhibitions, but if no place else is available to have them in the reading room rather than not hold them at all. He gave a simple method of hanging by cords fastened to the picture strip, strips of lathe to which are fastened the prints or photographs by means of a bulldog clip. Mr Cutter explained the willingness of the Soule photograph company to send out photographs and engravings free of charge to any library, after Christmas, as they have engagements for exhibitions up to that time. The Appalachian Mountain club have also a collection of photographs which they will send to libraries for display, for the cost of carriage.

S: S. Green, of the Worcester (Mass.) library, continued the discussion upon exhibitions. Mr Green has held these for many years and made arrangements when the building was rebuilt to have the whole upper floor thrown together in order that it may be so used, also some room upon the ground floor, and places at the foot of the stairway or in some prominent place a notice that the exhibition is in progress. He began these by examples of works of art illustrating the genius of Raphael, and has since had many, including Russian antiquities, Sèvres china, textile fabrics, Spanish literature,—the titles of which may be found in the annual report of the library. In connection with the school work the library has hung photographs and cuts illustrative of some period of history or literature which is being studied in the grammar schools, and the children are asked to come in at any time and see and study them. This is generally kept open two or three weeks at a time.

Mr Green spoke of the great advan-

tage of uniting with the local art societies to accomplish desirable ends, and as affording extended opportunities for getting material. He spoke also of the Hagar photographic company as an excellent source of supplies, but said further that if unable to get otherwise the engraving or picture wanted, he would carefully remove and use illustrations from valuable art books. Mr Green's plan for fastening up the prints was practically the same as Mr Cutter's, with the exception of the use of the spring clothes pin instead of the bulldog clip.

At 10:30 on Thursday morning was held one of the most important and interesting sessions of the meeting; the joint meeting of the A. L. A. and the trustees section. C. C. Soule, trustee of the Brookline, Mass., public library, presided. A large number of prominent library trustees from all over the country were present, many of them for the first time. F. M. Crunden, librarian of the St. Louis public library, read an excellent paper on the

#### **Functions of library trustees and their relation to librarians**

Certainly nothing can more conduce to the advancement of the library cause than a clear conception by trustees of their proper share in this great work and a full understanding by trustees and librarians of their mutual relations. It is a fortunate fact, which accounts for the rapid development of libraries in the past and augurs well for the future, that library boards have generally, almost universally, secured the services of men of the highest character. In every community the position of library trustee is looked upon as one of dignity and honor, and is readily accepted by men of ability and the most genuine public spirit. The place has little attraction for the class of men that form so large an element of other public bodies, not excepting school boards. Therefore the baser does not drive out the better; and there have been in library boards very few of those scandals that disgrace municipal administration and lead superficial minds to despair of

popular government. A list of qualifications by C. C. Soule reads as follows: sound character, good judgment and common sense, public spirit, capacity for work, literary taste, representative fitness.

I accept the list without change. No one of the qualifications can be spared. There is but one question to be considered: i. e., by what qualifications on the part of trustees and librarian and by what relation between them can the end for which the library was established, viz., the highest service of the community, be most surely attained? Libraries, like all other institutions are built on a foundation of money; and money is further required for their maintenance. The raising of funds, whether from public or private sources, is properly the trustees' function. When the library is once established, the librarian, by popularizing the library, will necessarily render indirectly efficient aid in enlarging its revenues. Librarians often furnish direct assistance by personal canvass, by newspaper appeals, or by giving or getting up lectures and entertainments. The librarian should, of course, turn his talents to anything that will most help the library; but if he is called upon to raise money, it is a diversion of his energies from their proper sphere. This field belongs to the trustee, and in it he works from the vantage ground of disinterested service.

In determining the purpose for which disbursements shall be made, the librarian should be called into consultation. He should be able to present to the trustees all the varied needs of the institution, and should express his opinion as to their relative importance. With this information before them the trustees can come to a wise decision. If the librarian has established a reputation for good judgment, in other words, if he has proved himself thoroughly competent, his recommendation should, and will, have great weight.

In all matters of administrative detail the librarian should have full freedom and authority, so far as he deserves



it and is willing to take the responsibility. If, however, he has a good board he will be glad to consult the proper committee and get the benefit of the members' judgment. If he is sure of his ground he should have full power to act. He should, in my opinion, be *ex-officio* secretary of the board and all its committees. Only by listening to the discussions of the trustees can he thoroughly comprehend the spirit, as well as the letter, of the instructions he receives. The board is a changing body; the librarian is, or should be, a permanent officer, thoroughly acquainted with the history of the institution, its past policy and the results of various experiments in administration. The trustee may be indifferent or oversensitive to public opinion. He is generally, I think, inclined to the latter extreme. He should be quick to investigate any reasonable complaint, and at the same time should defend the board and the librarian against mere captiousness. He should deem it his special duty to stand between the librarian and the attacks of ignorance and personal malice.

Mr Green thinks it too much to expect trustees to reflect of their own motion, whether the increased experience and efficiency of the librarian does not call for larger salary. I think it would not be amiss for the board to anticipate a request of this kind from the librarian. Both parties feel better about it. And when the need of retrenchment arises, trustees do not give the best evidence of their administrative capacity and resource by immediately scaling down salaries. This sometimes amounts to an enforced contribution from the employees to the book fund. There can hardly be any question that appointment of assistants should be left practically to the librarian. He cannot justly be held responsible for results unless he has the choice of those who are to aid him. The formal appointments should, of course, be made by the board. The trustees having made a choice according to their wisest judgment, and having given him a salary commensurate with his labors and the financial ability

of the library, should hold up his hands just as long as he shows himself worthy of their support. The librarian is the paid executive officer whose duty it is to run the library. So long as it runs smoothly and with satisfactory results they should interfere with him as little as possible. The moment it appears that the results are not satisfactory, and that the librarian has lost the confidence of the board, is the time for a change of librarians. There are probably few librarians of long experience who do not recognize the two opposite types of directors; the one unwilling to give any time or thought to the questions that come before the board and its committees, the other wanting to assume all the functions of board and librarian. Neither one is to be desired; but of the former it may be said that if he does no good he at least does no particular harm, while the harmful capacity of the latter is incalculable. Give me a respectable figurehead rather than an opinionated, domineering meddler. As Mr Green says: "A board of trustees owe it to its librarian to protect him from the vagaries of impracticable men who may by some chance become members of the board."

The wise librarian will always acquiesce cheerfully in a decision that represents the judgment of the majority of the board; but it is rather galling to have his well-considered plan set aside by the snap judgment of a single member, it may be against the evident preference of the rest of the board. Lest in thus claiming large liberty for the librarian, I may seem to make the position of trustee a sinecure, let me briefly recapitulate the various functions of the latter:

1. To raise funds from public or private sources or both.
2. To manage the funds—to finance the institution.
3. To supervise disbursements, to determine for what purpose expenditures shall be made, to see that they are made judiciously and to see that every dollar is accounted for.

4. To determine the general policy of the institution.

5. To advise with the librarian in administrative details and give him the benefit of their business ability in organizing the staff and systematizing the work of the library.

6. To criticize the methods of the librarian and judge the results obtained; to spur him on if he lacks energy and enterprise; to curb and guide his excess of enthusiasm; to check eccentricities and to prevent errors of individual judgment; finally, to dismiss him if a failure and employ some one whom they believe to be competent.

7. In their respective capacity, all persons in whom the community has confidence, to give the people assurance that the administration of the library is judicious and that it is managed for the greatest good of the greatest number.

These various duties will certainly require as much time and thought as most men can give to gratuitous public service.

J. K. Hosmer, now librarian of the Minneapolis public library, formerly trustee of the St. Louis public library, opened the discussion, and on account of these positions announced himself as a sort of connecting link between trustees and libraries. He felt that his experience as a trustee made him a better librarian, and he felt sure that he would make a better trustee again on account of having been a librarian. He endorsed Mr. Crunden's idea of securing a competent librarian and placing matters of administration entirely in his hands; better results would come from such a course. He strongly advocated having women on the board of trustees, not as advisers, but as active members.

Colonel J. W. Thompson, trustee of the Evanston public library, paid a beautiful tribute to the work of the women on the library board. He said that the work of the trustees had brought about civil service in the appointments on the library staff, and personal fitness and ability were the only considerations thought of in making appointments.

He found that it had elevated not only the work of the library, but also the sentiments of the town toward the institution.

Rutherford P. Hayes, library commissioner for the state of Ohio, said that the worst possible feature in the government of a library was rotations of librarians with the changes of political parties. He had never known a case where it had not worked disastrously to the best interests of library work. He reported improvement in the work in Ohio as the result of the work of the commission, and predicted better things when the commission should more fully take up work which they were appointed to do.

James R. Garfield, trustee of the Mentor public library, gave some sound advice as to the management of a small library, gathered from his personal experience as trustee. Mr Garfield's remarks will be given in full on another page of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Miss Kelso, of New York, told of an actual case in her knowledge of a library of 360 volumes, governed by a board of 60 women who held a meeting once a week.

G. A. McBeth, trustee of the Carnegie free library of Pittsburg, said it was entirely wrong that the administration of a public library should be divided between trustees and librarian. A librarian should be given full power to manage the institution to the best advantage and then be held responsible for good results. The business part of the management should be entirely the work of the trustees, and the librarian should be the connecting link between the public and the board. He advocated long terms of service for both trustees and librarians, as experience in the work made both more valuable officers, and neither can be made valuable where there is frequent rotation. Sound business principles should be practiced in the administration of a public library. A business house only asks that a man faithfully perform the duties assigned to him in a manner advantageous to his employers, who have

no concern in his religious and political opinions. He also advocated that librarians should be sent to library meetings by the board of trustees as a legitimate expense to the library he serves, as it was beyond question that the library would receive better service and more intelligent administration as the result.

The hard rain which fell during the day made it necessary that the plans for visiting the branch libraries and other places of interest in Cleveland should be changed to a later time, and Thursday afternoon was taken up with matters of the schedule program, so that nothing might be left undone or interfered with by the change. At 2:30, therefore, the exercises were resumed and the first matter on the program was a paper from Lutie E. Stearns on her favorite topic,

#### Advertising a library

Miss Stearns believes that using all the means of modern advertising is a legitimate and dignified proceeding for any public library. She advocated interesting the public first in the public library and educating them afterward.

Any legitimate means which would bring people to the library with inquiring minds would be advocated. Authors might speak with the tongues of men and angels, but without advertising their books would go without readers. Some good plans of work are given in the following extracts from Miss Stearns' paper:

The greatest aid in this work is the newspaper. A catalog never brought a man into the library, but has been the cause of keeping him out. Many librarians who do not believe in advertising and yet find the circulation of books at a low ebb, lay the blame on the wheel. She advised giving notes on technical books in the newspapers, and also printing the list each week of new books received. Miss Stearns thought it a good plan to advertise in railroad stations, drug stores, book stores, or other business houses having a large number of people visiting them, and also to place notices in conspicu-

ous places in street cars. Placards of several library bulletins were on exhibition on the wall, to which she called attention, pointing out their effectiveness. She also called attention to the work that might be done by advertising in the schools by placards, or little talks on the books in the library.

Many libraries publish lists weekly, or oftener, on special topics or recent additions, and they are often disappointed to find the lists so seldom used at the library. Now, there is a way out of the difficulty and one by which any library may have much of its printing done free of charge. After the list appears in the paper, ask the printer to save the type in its original form and strike off several hundred copies of the list on his job press, for distribution. Many printers will do this for the mere cost of the extra paper and press work; others will do it free of charge if one arranges a heading such as the following:

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

(Call Slip)

Furnished by the courtesy  
of

*The Milwaukee Journal*

Watch the *Journal* for library notes and lists.

Mark those you wish.

#### The Money question.

One plan suggested by a librarian is as follows: I took one library wall for a bulletin board, and here I keep various and sundry lists, changing them often, using signs, big letters, colored inks, pictures, catch words—any and everything to attract attention. Half of the space in our picture gallery,—mounted photographs, portraits, views, etc., clipped from book reviews, catalogs, etc., with lists of our books to which they refer. These are also changed frequently, and are, perhaps, our most popular advertisements. Just at present the walls contain complete lists of music, including musical novels, electricity, mechanics, astronomy, metals, selected lists on birds, insects, bees, flowers, and housekeeping, Mrs Harriet

Beecher Stowe, Summer sports, and Alaska. The list on Alaska asks most solicitously, "Hot? Then come to Alaska," and is illustrated by pen and ink sketches transferred by means of tissue paper from the books cited. Whenever possible I head a list with an appropriate quotation; for instance, at the head of the list for housekeeping is: "Who sweeps a room as by God's law, makes that and the action fine," from George Herbert, and I find an interest awakened in the quaint old poet because he chose such a lowly subject. In addition to this bulletin, I have kept lists posted in our two high schools, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. rooms, car shops, and electric R. R. power house; made lists for the various reading and study clubs, and vacation lists for women and children; published lists for the university extension course in the daily papers; spoken on library aims to both high schools, and given a ten lesson course in library science to the West side high school.

Use posters in the circulating department to hide unsightly walls, to give the public something cheerful to look at, and to advertise the circulating copies of books and magazines. "Do posters post?" Most certainly, when used for advertising purposes. It should ever be borne in mind, in conclusion, that advertising will bring people to your library, and then its mission stops. Then success depends on the service within your doors. All the advertising that you can contrive, even though it "speaks with the tongues of men and angels," will not offset a hard, imperious, domineering or condescending spirit within the library. There should be an indefinable something in the appearance of your library to draw people in, and an atmosphere most persuasive in keeping them there and making them long to return. Neatness and order and a certain amount of orderly disorder which bespeaks life and business. The popularity of your library depends largely upon your assistants. The wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the tact of a politician, unvarying courtesy, un-

remitting energy, concentration, the ability to judge character, and above all, common sense, makes for all that is good in library advertising. With all those conditions fulfilled, happy then, indeed, is the lot of the librarian who can say with our friend, Miss Garland, of Dover, that "Like the immortal Melin's Food, we are advertised by our loving friends."

A paper by C. R. Dudley, librarian city library, Denver, Colo., on Library editions of popular fiction had been printed. It was discussed by F. A. Hutchins of Wisconsin, who spoke in strong language of the poor workmanship of the majority of the books which belong to this class, and urged that some special action be taken toward special additions for library purposes. Poorly bound books are discouraging, and many of the books in a circulating library become so worn and filthy after a short time that people lose their respect for them as books, and this is true among children especially.

Books in a public library should not be covered. Its individuality expressed by the cover is part of its value. Mr Fletcher suggested, in discussing the paper, that a tabulated list of books showing the number of times they had been bound, furnishing the name of the publisher, would assist in the matter. Mr Whelpley suggested that a commission with full power to act be appointed by the A. L. A. to treat with book publishers on this matter.

This was followed by a very interesting paper presented by Ellen M. Chandler, of the Buffalo Library, in which she presented her collection of "do's" received from various libraries over the country. Some of them were as follows:

Do—something. Mistakes are excusable; lethargy and stagnation unpardonable.

Do help to organize a state association if it does not already exist.

Do go to the state meetings, even if at first you doubt, being so very wise yourself, whether it will be personally profitable. Just consider what an ad-



vantage contact with such wisdom will be to others.

Do talk with your assistants.

Do make a sample book of every printed form used in the library. Give under the sample the source where obtained, quantity usually ordered, and price per thousand or hundred.

Do use a picture lens from four to six inches across in reading proof.

Do support all coöperative library efforts, and initiate new ones.

Do discourage the reading of the newest books in preference to the better older ones.

Do insist on intelligence and courtesy in library attendants.

Do have a children's room, and do have it large enough.

Do all your library work in a cheerful spirit and in a willing manner, even if it is distasteful work.

Do answer business letters promptly.

Do, when other people make mistakes, remember that you, too, may make them, and *be considerate*.

Do have an understudy for every important position in the library.

Do keep a close acquaintance with English publications, and not depend on American importers or reprinters to introduce them to you.

Do give a fair share of odd minutes to the scanning of catalogs of second-hand dealers. It will pay.

Do cherish the freshness of new books and not allow them to be staled in the cataloging room.

Do have a place in your library for the assistants to rest during the lunch hour.

Do put good talent at the loan desk. For many readers this is the only point of contact with the library, and they are almost entirely dependent on the wisdom (or unwisdom) of the loan clerk for their choice of reading.

Do have a conversation room for the women who gossip, and the men who exchange views on the questions of the day.

Do refrain from asking a person if damage to a book is due to his carelessness. He will break the whole ten

commandments, if necessary, to assure you that it is not.

Do, if possible, write signs so that people can understand them.

Do get a cat for your library.

Do keep your order list on cards.

Do realize that there is such a thing as a competent student, and when he appears, help him to work, and don't take as much of his time as possible in attending to obsolete formalities.

Do keep your card catalog up to date.

Do give your assistants an opportunity to learn all branches of library work.

The next matter taken up was the discussion of the subjects assigned to bring out points of information for young and inexperienced librarians. For some reason these latter were not anxious to be informed, if one may judge by the questions asked and the people asking them, for librarians of long experience, for the most part, carried on the discussion.

W. I. Fletcher was called to the chair by the president, and those present to whom subjects had been assigned took their places on the platform. Library furniture, fixtures and appliances were discussed by C. A. Cutler. Some questions were asked concerning the charging system which is carried on by means of the envelopes, and this method was explained at some length by Nina E. Brown, Library Bureau, Boston. Old and new books, what to buy, was discussed very interestingly by Caroline M. Hewins. She drew a very interesting comparison between the story of Aladdin's lamp and the careless librarian. Careful exercise of judgment and reason is necessary in buying books for a library. The main effort will be to fill the gap between old friends and the new fad. The perplexing questions will be whether to get books for her own pleasure or provide the books called for by the public. Of 50 per cent of new books only 10 per cent should be novels. Better to buy slowly and with judgment than cater to popular demand.

Reading room and periodicals, was

presented by Hannah P. James. Miss James pleaded earnestly for better periodical literature. Beware of scrappy reading. If the library cannot afford many of the better magazines, a number of people can club together for them and thus a community may be supplied at a moderate rate. Watch carefully the periodicals for children, and be sure they are of tried worth and tone. Better service for the public will be given by distributing books than can possibly be done with newspapers. Miss James would advise spending more of the money which is now used for newspapers, in providing a room for children.

Reference books and reference work was presented in a very entertaining and instructive way by S. S. Green. Mr Green advises against trying to be a walking encyclopedia, but urges study of bibliography in a rational way. He makes a practice of training several persons in reference work, so that the library reference books need not be confined to the use of a few. He spoke against the practice of librarians trying to answer questions of which they had no knowledge. A librarian should not answer the question, but should help the reader to find it, provide him with books relating to the subject if it is somewhat obscure, and let him take his own time to find the answer.

The Librarian's annual report was treated of by Caroline H. Garland. Miss Garland said the annual report is a burden, but it is also an opportunity for the librarian to have her say. The plan of the report should be carefully laid out before beginning the work. Statistics should be stated clearly and concisely. Much information should be given, based on the questions asked by visitors. Make the discussion apply to the calls of people, upon whom the interest of the library depends. Keep material on memorandum throughout the year that will help the making up of the report at the end. Leave out all personalities and expressions of discouragement. There is nothing great in the absence of errors in a report;

there should be something worth telling. Present the report in good English. Look at several exchange reports after writing, rather than before, for ideas, and thus avoid the danger of copying style.

At the close of this exercise a resolution was adopted in which it was proposed that a non-returnable deposit of \$5.00 be made by those intending to take the European trip, and that the opportunity of going in this party to Europe should be limited to members of the A. L. A. and their families, except by consent of the committee in charge.

A communication from the National Educational Association was presented by Mary Eileen Ahern, secretary of the library section of the N. E. A., requesting that the A. L. A. cooperate in the work of the section, and to that end delegates be appointed to attend the meetings of the N. E. A. to formulate plans for cooperative work helpful to both schools and libraries. A motion was carried appointing a committee of five, S. S. Green, chairman, to act in the matter.

One of the most helpful sessions of the entire meeting was the evening devoted to the discussion of the supplement of the A. L. A. catalog. Mary S. Cutler, chairman of the committee, had caused to be printed a tentative list of the books to be added, and these were distributed before the meeting to various members of the association, while different subjects on the list were assigned to individuals to make a report upon the books selected under these heads.

Mr Cutter, in his reference to the subject, spoke of the importance of considering the A. L. A. catalog since it would carry with it the approval of the association, and the world had a right to expect careful consideration and good results from librarians who undertake to say what books should be found in a model library.

Sociology had been assigned to F. M. Crunden, of St. Louis public library. In discussing the books on the list Mr



Crunden thought social needs should be given careful consideration, and that individual ideas or personal prejudice should not enter into the selection. Fair-minded and unbiased discussions which would be helpful and meet the common need should be chosen, rather than involved principles for the special students or teachers.

T. L. Montgomery, librarian of Wagner's Free Institute of Science, Philadelphia, on the list chosen in science, proved conclusively that only books with well established principles should be chosen on such a list. He called attention to a number of books on the list which he should not include, and commended others as being very helpful in a public library.

Gardiner M. Jones, of Salem, discussed useful arts. He advocated that in such a list, books should be chosen covering the whole field, as each library will naturally buy books treating on the interests of its own locality. He gave it as his opinion that specialists are not the best advisers in the selection of books as they are likely to be prejudiced in favor of works in one line.

R. G. Thwaites, of the Madison Historical Society, discussed the lists on history and biography. He said the latter should take up only representative men and women and not minor people. Attention should be given to local biography and the needs of the community. In buying histories, books dealing with detail should not have the first place; but rather those which treat of history on broad lines. He commented rather severely on some of the works included in the list and commended others.

The discussion of children's books was led by Caroline M. Hewins. Miss Hewins' paper was very entertaining; but sarcasm, wit, comment and criticism were so nicely blended that one was uncertain at the close whether Miss Hewins' remarks were commendatory or otherwise. One clearly felt, however, that she made a strong plea for more serious consideration in supplying children's books.

By far the most interesting and general discussion of the evening was that on fiction, the ever rising question in the minds of librarians. The discussion was led by Mr Larned, who asked the question, Is it the right of art and literature to go out of the way to hunt for theories to sustain their work? He deplored the circulation of books of this kind. Necessary evils should not be dealt with in a decorative way; we all recognize them; we know they exist, but they should not be brought further into prominence.

Several of the books on the list which have received considerable notice in the public press in the last few years were discussed by many of the librarians, and lines were sharply drawn several times between those condemning and those approving individual books.

This session may be called distinctively a literary evening. It was enjoyable and, to a degree, exciting from beginning to end. This discussion on tentative lists is to be made a prominent feature of future conferences and thus will keep the A. L. A. catalog up to date. The committee in charge are to revise this supplement on the basis of the discussion and answers to questions on the tentative lists sent out.

On Friday morning the session was called to order promptly at 9 o'clock. A resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of a committee to study systems of traveling libraries, and to advise as to extensions. A resolution was also adopted providing for a committee to report on the matter of an American libraries' clearing house, as proposed by Adolf Hepner, of the *St Louis Tageblatt*.

This was followed by a paper on the Relation of the bookseller to the librarian, by Almon Burtch, of the library department of A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. He showed some of the disadvantages which hinder the work of getting books before the public when one is confined to the commercial treatment of them. He paid a high compliment to the help received from library

methods, and described the ideal bookstore as one arranged according to the principles governing in a library. At the conclusion of his paper a resolution was adopted inviting booksellers to form a closer relation with the library associations, looking to more effective helpfulness on the part of both.

Frank P. Hill's paper on Preparing books for issue and charging systems, was then given, having been omitted in the previous session. The points to be observed in charging books are accuracy, speed and simplicity, and no one of these must be emphasized at the expense of another. The first requisite in any system is to relieve the borrower of trouble and delay. Nothing should be introduced that interferes with this in any degree. To this end do not set too much value on statistics. It is not necessary to know what books are out, Mr Hill gave a full description of the Newark system, which is one of the most popular in the country. It was first contrived and put in practice by the librarian of Evansville, Ind., and with a few modifications has been found to work very satisfactorily in both small and large libraries. Mr Hill traced the process of treating a book from the time of its entrance to its place on the shelves. Free access to the shelves does away with loss of time, and there are many things to be taken into consideration in this connection.

Much discussion was held over the question of how many statistics should be stamped in charging a book. The opinion seemed to be that the principal point to be kept in view was as to who had the book and when it was due. Mr Cutter strongly advised that the date when the book is due be written or stamped, instead of the date of issue, thus saving calculation by the reader and also insuring more prompt return of books.

Dr Cyrus Adler, librarian of the Smithsonian institute, gave a very interesting account of the institute and its work from the beginning. The institution was founded for the dissemination of knowledge for the whole

world. Dr Adler gave a very interesting account of the early difficulties between Senator Choate and others, as to what use should be made of the bequest of Mr Smithson. Mr Choate thought it should all be put in a library; but others advocated a different plan. A compromise was effected, and wisely, by which the different organizations of the institution were founded, which provided for library publications, bibliography, and exchange of material with all the world. Mr Jewett, its first librarian, is one of five whose names should be preserved for the work they have done. Coöperation, not monopoly, is the watchword of the Smithsonian institute. By means of a system of exchange instituted through its efforts, its publications have been sent to a vast number of libraries at home and abroad, the value of which is almost inestimable in money. Science needs libraries more than literary workers do. A review of the bibliographic work which has been brought out during the last fifty years shows 730,000 volumes which would not otherwise have been presented. The library has also many valuable prints, especially of the French and German schools of art. This is the jubilee year for the Smithsonian institute, it having been founded in 1846. It is to be hoped that a greater interest and more sympathetic coöperation in this work will grow out of the discussion of its plans and purposes.

The committee on resolutions presented a report through Mr Crunden, extending the thanks of the A. L. A. to the Rowfant Club for its gracious entertainment; to Charles F. Olney for his hospitable welcome to his art gallery; to the local committee for efficient service and numerous courtesies; and to the Cleveland newspapers for full and accurate reports of the proceedings. H. J. Carr presented a resolution which was carried, acknowledging the indebtedness of the library profession to Mr Brett for his cumulative index.

The election was held under the Australian ballot system. Silas H. Barry,

of Brooklyn, and A. S. Root, of Oberlin, were in charge of the ballot box and counted the ballots. The voting resulted in the election of W. H. Brett, Cleveland, president; H. L. Elmendorf, J. K. Hosmer, Hannah P. James, vice-presidents; Rutherford P. Hayes, secretary, G. W. Cole, treasurer; H. J. Carr, J. C. Dana, Melvil Dewey, and Mary W. Plummer were elected members of the council. John C. Hutchins, Cleveland, was elected trustee of the endowment fund.

Friday afternoon being clear and bright, the invitation for a trolley ride was again extended by the Cleveland hosts, and the librarians accepted with pleasure. Several cars were filled, and a merry party rode through the principal streets traversed by the railway. Visits were made to the Hatch library and the Woodland and Miles Park branches of the public library. The party was cordially received at all of these places, and given every opportunity to see the furnishings and workings of the libraries.

After the visits to the branch libraries, the party was taken to the home of Prof. Olney, who had so generously proffered the freedom of his house and art gallery. The gallery proper, where are the large collections, is a part of Prof. Olney's magnificent residence, and its walls are covered with rare paintings, while scattered about the room are cabinets containing collections of ivories, gems, including a beautiful array of cameos and intaglios, ceramics and many things which the limited time deprived the guests seeing.

The whole collection is an exhibition of the personal taste of an essentially artistic collector, and is the cumulative evidence of appreciative travel. Prof. Olney began it at an early date in his career, when securing an article of *vertu* was a sacrifice as well as a pleasure and every article shows careful personal selection.

The host is a musician as well as a connoisseur of art, and after a cordial welcome address delivered from the balcony of the gallery, invited the party

to join him in singing "America," which they gladly did, Prof. Olney accompanying them upon the piano. He then pointed out paintings and objects of more than usual interest or merit, adding a word or two of explanation of each. At the door was provided a register upon which all were asked to inscribe their names. Prof. Larned, of the Buffalo public library, on behalf of the visitors expressed in a few words the appreciation and thanks of the guests. In the evening it was the privilege of the A. L. A. to entertain Prof. and Mrs. Olney at their annual banquet.

At 8:30 on Friday evening the librarians and a number of invited guests gathered at the annual A. L. A. dinner at the Hollenden hotel. After the repast was served, Judge Hutchins, president of the board of trustees of the Cleveland public library, assumed the duties of toastmaster. The new president, Mr. Brett, was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers as a mark of esteem by his Cleveland friends, through Judge J. C. Hutchins. Short speeches were made by President Thwing, of the Western Reserve University, R. G. Thwaites, and Dr. Specker, of Cleveland. Owing to the lateness of the hour the company was soon obliged to separate in order to reach the boat for Detroit on time.

#### Conference Notes

Thirteen persons from the Detroit public library were in attendance at the meeting in Cleveland.

The majority of those present at the library circus voted against placing *Puck* and *Judge* in their reading rooms.

The vote on free access to the shelves showed of the 300 people present, but 12 disapproved of the method.

Invitations to hold the session of 1898 within their borders was received from Atlanta, Ga., New York City, Lincoln, Neb., Indianapolis and Montreal.

The plan of printing and distributing the formal papers prepared for the meeting gave more time for discussion and effective work at the meeting.

The committee in charge of the Poole Memorial fund will provide a bronze bust of Dr Poole with an appropriate pedestal. The fund is growing, but slowly.

The Library Bureau, Westervelt Co., and the Snead Co. had exhibits of shelving. The Library Bureau also had catalog cases, trays and other library appliances on exhibition.

The executive board adopted a resolution to publish the A. L. A. Primer in book form, to contain 24 pages of matter, Library Journal size. It was also passed by the association.

Mr Crunden announced to the company just before leaving for Detroit, that the enrollment on the A. L. A. membership book was 620, and there had been an actual attendance of 429.

Tessa L. Kelso presented a resolution, which was adopted, that the A. L. A. present to the Rowfant Club an A. L. A. candlestick in appreciation of the delightful evening spent as guests of the club

An annotated list of books on music contributed by H. E. Krehbiel is promised by Mr Iles in the coming winter. This list is already in the list of books for women and girls, but will be enlarged to 270 titles. The list of books on fine arts will also be enlarged to 550 titles.

The publishing section has under consideration the publication of indexes to portraits; the printed catalog cards heretofore published by the Library Bureau, and the publication of the lists of select fiction which has hitherto been done by the Massachusetts library club.

It was decided to publish and distribute to trustees, 1,000 copies of an abstract of the proceedings of the joint meeting of the A. L. A. and trustees section. The publishing section will be asked to print and distribute 1,000 extra copies of the proceedings.

The resolution concerning the National library, as finally passed, provides that should the Senate and House committee desire the advice of the A.

L. A. in regard to the library, the president of the association is empowered to appoint a committee to confer on this subject.

A meeting of the executive board was held on Monday September 7, at Mackinac. Various committees for the next year were selected and the policy and outline of the work decided upon, subject to the approval of the full board, Mr Cole and Mr Hayes not being present. C. Alex. Nelson found that the duties of recorder were too heavy to carry and do justice to his duties in his library, and so was obliged to resign. Gardiner M. Jones was appointed recorder instead.

The trip to Europe in 1897 was made the subject of considerable discussion. Two plans were presented, one by H. E. Davidson, of the Library Bureau, Boston, and another by C. C. Soule, of the Boston Book Co. The whole matter was finally placed in the hands of a committee of which W. C. Lane was made chairman, who will be able by modification and combination of both plans to present a very satisfactory trip. The essential point of difference between the plans was the time of making the tour of England, one advocating going before and the other after the meeting. It was voted to accept the invitation for the time set by the L. A. U. K.

The meeting at Cleveland was noted for the faithful attendance at all the sessions by the people who had come there for that purpose. The sessions began promptly on time, and closed on time with a full attendance every meeting. Things moved along with a vim and an interest that showed the librarians were in earnest. Good cannot but come from this meeting.

For the first time the booksellers at the meeting were prominent in number. They were a very welcome addition, being genial, courteous representatives, who aided much by their presence, to the interest of the meeting. It is to be hoped that not only these, but many more of their kind will be found in



attendance at future meetings. Appleton & Co., Ginn & Co., Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Charles Scribner's Sons, Burroughs Bros., Taylor & Austin, G. P. Putnam & Co., William Beverly Harrison, Silver, Burdett & Co., G. A. Stechert, Lemcke & Buechner were all represented by one or more people.

One oversight in making up the program caused some little feeling, and perhaps justly so. This was the omission of the college libraries, as such, from the program. The executive board regret that this occurred, and the matter has made so deep an impression that it can scarcely happen again.

Those who advocate holding the conference at out-of-the-way resorts in the country will lose part of their argument by the large attendance at Cleveland.

The enrollment book showed the following number of people present from 28 different states, though quite a number were present who did not sign the register: Ohio 83; New York 52; Massachusetts 35; Illinois 33; Pennsylvania 26; Michigan 22; Wisconsin 14; Indiana 13; Missouri 10; New Jersey 8; Connecticut 6; Iowa 3; Maine 3; New Hampshire 3; Nebraska 3; Rhode Island 3; Colorado 2; Kentucky 2; Minnesota 2; Delaware 1; Georgia 1; Louisiana 1; Montana 1; Maryland 1; Vermont 1; Washington 1; District of Columbia 7; Canada 5. Total 341.

#### Library meetings

Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan librarians held informal sessions of the State library associations of their respective states and laid plans for future work. We give the following outlines of the proceedings of each:

**Illinois**—An informal meeting of the Illinois library association was held at Cleveland in the Army and Navy building, September 4, 1896, at 11:30 A. M. In the absence of the president, Dr Wire was made temporary chairman.

The meeting was held during the session of the A. L. A. conference, and it was a matter of some surprise and of a great deal of pleasure to find such a large delegation from Illinois in attend-

ance, as it was represented by twenty-eight library people. For some reason, however, there were but fifteen of these librarians present at the state meeting: Clement W. Andrews, John Crerar library, Chicago; W. W. Bishop, Garrett Biblical institute, Evanston; Mrs Zella A. Dixon, University of Chicago, Chicago; Carrie L. Elliott, public library, Chicago; Mrs Alice Evans, public library, Decatur; Ellen Gale, public library, Rock Island; Anderson H. Hopkins, John Crerar library, Chicago; Mary B. Lindsay, public library, Evanston; Margaret Mann, Armour institute, Chicago; Ange V. Milner, State Normal school, Normal; Evva L. Moore, Withers public library, Bloomington; Mrs L. L. Powell, public library, Cairo; Jessie Van Vliet, Armour institute, Chicago; Mrs H. M. Weeks, trustee public library, Winnetka; G. E. Wire, M. D., Evanston.

Mr Bishop gave an interesting account of the library section of the National Educational Association formed at Buffalo, July 7, 1896. He expressed the wish that our association take up this work during the winter and place Illinois at the head of the list of those states taking early interest in the matter.

Mr Hopkins, chairman of committee on Illinois State library commission, reported that nothing definite had been done in regard to said commission, but that the bill to be presented to the legislature in January would be drafted and ready for the next formal meeting of the State association.

Dr Wire then made a few remarks in regard to the serious illness of Mr Nelson, our president. Action was taken in regard to this, and the secretary instructed to write him a note of sympathy in his illness, and regret at his absence at the meeting.

In the absence of Miss Sharp of the Bureau of information, Dr Wire reported that the bureau was working successfully, and doing much good.

The motion was made and carried that the executive board of the association be requested to arrange for a session in the early fall, of the Illinois

State library association, at such time and place as is deemed convenient.

An informal discussion and explanation of the functions of the State library commission followed, after which the meeting adjourned.

**Indiana**—The members of the Indiana library association present at Cleveland held an informal meeting on Friday, September 4, to discuss the plan of the meeting of the holidays. There were thirteen librarians present, and there was a general talk on what to do to stimulate library interests in the state. A suggestion was taken under advisement to change the time of meeting from the holidays when the State teachers' association meets, to a time when there would not be a conflicting program in the way of the attendance of a large number of school people. It was decided to make an effort to secure a good strong lecturer to give an address before a joint meeting with the State teachers' association on library movements, as an aid toward arousing interest in the state in a library commission.

The following were present: F. R. Kautz, Mrs. F. R. Kautz, E. G. Browning, E. L. Davidson, E. M. Fitzgerald, Indianapolis; Merica Hoagland, A. B. Fowler, Helen T. Guild, Fort Wayne; Elizabeth D. Swan, Purdue University; Maude R. Henderson, Lafayette; Jennie B. Jessup, La Porte; Belle S. Hanna, Greencastle and Mary Eileen Ahern, Library Bureau.

**Michigan**—Michigan was represented at the A. L. A. meeting by twenty-seven persons, including five not registered in the A. L. A. list.

On Friday afternoon, September 4, at 3 o'clock there was a meeting of the Michigan library association in one of the parlors of the Hollenden.

The desirability of requesting the next legislature to establish a State library commission was discussed, and a motion was passed that the president appoint two members to act with him as a committee to take charge of the matter, and to ask assistance of other members if necessary.

A report from Mr Finney, of the

University library in the matter of preserving, binding and indexing local newspapers was read by the secretary. It stated that Mr Finney's address on that subject, read at the last meeting of the association, had been printed and sent to a number of libraries that were not represented at the meeting, as well as to several newspapers. Replies received showed that nearly all of the larger libraries are preserving files of local papers. One expressed a determination to begin indexing, and one newspaper agreed to print a few copies of each issue on durable paper.

The secretary reported the addition of seven new members, and a gratifying enlargement of the libraries at Port Huron and Pontiac. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$36.78. A motion was passed reelecting the officers of the preceding year.

It was voted to hold the next meeting in the Hackley library, Muskegon, at a time to be determined on by the executive committee. The officers are: president, H. M. Utley, Detroit; vice-presidents, G. M. Walton, Ypsilanti, and I. C. Roberts, Kalamazoo; secretary, Mrs. A. F. Parsons, Bay City; treasurer, Lucy Ball, Grand Rapids.

**Ohio**—The Ohio Librarians' association held its second annual convention Friday, Sept. 4, at Army and Navy hall. About 60 members of the association were present, and business of considerable importance was transacted. Librarian Brett, of the Cleveland public library, acted as chairman of the convention, and Alice Boardman, assistant librarian of the Ohio State library, acted as secretary.

A very interesting report of the work of the library extension committee was rendered by A. S. Root, librarian of the Oberlin College library. He stated that the interest in library extension was increasing throughout the state and that many new libraries were being erected. A report regarding the work of the Ohio library commission was given by R. P. Hayes, a member of that commission. This library commission was appointed by the last legislature for the

purpose of taking charge of the state library, rearranging it and getting the numerous public documents ready for publication.

Charles Orr, librarian of Case library and chairman of the committee on public documents, gave a report on the publication of state papers. He thought that many more documents are printed than are necessary. Hitherto documents have been published at random and distributed without any system whatever. An accumulation of old documents was recently sold as old paper, although they cost the state several thousand dollars to publish. It is the object of the committee to remedy this extravagance.

At the close of the session, officers for the ensuing year were elected. They are as follows: A. W. Whelpley, librarian of the Cincinnati public library, president; Frank Conover, trustee of the Dayton public library, first vice-president; Manlia Mercer, librarian of the Mansfield library, second vice-president; E. M. Monfort, librarian of Marietta College library, third vice-president; E. C. Dorn, librarian Dayton public library, secretary; C. B. Gafraith, librarian of the Ohio state library, treasurer; A. S. Root, librarian Oberlin College library, member of the executive committee.

The College section met in the parlors of the Hollenden hotel at noon Friday, September 5. There were about twenty-five persons present representing all parts of the country. W. I. Fletcher, of Amherst, was made chairman, and C. A. Nelson, of Columbia, secretary. The greater part of the time was spent in a discussion of the plan of the Royal Society of London for a catalog of scientific literature. Reports of progress in this undertaking were received with great interest and satisfaction. Interesting and valuable testimony concerning the index to zoölogical literature now being issued from Zurich was given by Dr Adler, of the Smithsonian institute, and A. H. Hopkins, of the John Crerar library, Chicago. It was voted that librarians of

reference libraries should be included in the membership of the College section, and the executive committee of the A. L. A. was requested to provide, at the next meeting, at least one paper on some subject directly connected with the work of college libraries. The officers of the meeting were requested to continue to act until the next meeting of the section and to provide a subject and speakers for that occasion.

#### W. H. Brett

William Howard Brett is of New England ancestry, and was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, on the Connecticut Western Reserve. He attended the public schools of Warren, and afterward, at intervals, took partial courses in Western Reserve College at Hudson and at the University of Michigan.

Early in the seventies he went to Cleveland and engaged in book selling which he followed until in 1884 he accepted the position of librarian at the Cleveland public library. While engaged in selling books he was also interested in a book bindery. Upon assuming charge of the library he gave up all other business connections. He has planned and extended the usefulness of this institution, until to-day it is one of the leading libraries in the country. The catalog of the Cleveland public library, compiled under Mr Brett's direction, is one of the best that has ever been issued, and serves as a model for many librarians in their work.

He has been a member of the American Library Association since 1885, and has attended most of the meetings. During that time he has been a member of the Council, member and chairman of many important committees. No member stands higher in the affections of the A. L. A. than Mr Brett, and his election gives universal satisfaction. He is also a member of the American Historical Association, of the Antiquarian and Historical Association of Ohio, and an associate member of the Military Service Institution, and has contributed occasionally to the *Library Journal* and to other periodicals.

## R. P. Hayes

Rutherford Platt Hayes, the new secretary of the A. L. A., is the third son of President R. B. Hayes, and was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, June 24, 1858. His early life was passed at Chillicothe, interrupted by two winters, during the war, in camp in West Virginia, where his father was in command. In 1868 General Hayes becoming governor of Ohio removed his family to Columbus, and in 1872 to Fremont, which latter place was the home of the subject of this sketch until 1894. Mr. Hayes entered Cornell in 1876, graduating in 1880; and in the autumn of the following year went to Boston to continue his studies. While there he made the acquaintance of Melvil Dewey, who did much to strengthen Mr Hayes' inherent fondness for work in the alcove. In 1882 Mr Hayes connected himself with the Savings bank in Fremont, becoming cashier a few years later. In October, 1894, he was married to Miss Lucy Hayes Platt of Columbus, and took up his residence in that place.

In 1882 Mr Hayes was made trustee of Birchard Library in Fremont, a library founded and endowed by the uncle and guardian of President Hayes, and at the latter's suggestion. The young man was actively in charge of the library till 1894, devoting to it most of his hours outside of business, and experimenting in various lines of advanced work. He anticipated the traveling libraries of later years by sending during an entire winter boxes of books to a town fourteen miles away. Responding to a call for Sunday opening, he, in connection with a few others, kept the reading-room open Sunday afternoons for one winter, the librarian not being called upon for this extra and unpaid work. In connection with another member, he arranged and published by installments in a local paper a complete catalog of the library, thus making private catalogs available to all, without extra expense. He also simplified the rules of the library, arranged for open cases accessible to all, made special inducements in the way of small chairs,

desks and books for children, and assisted actively in the coöperative index published by Mr Fletcher. He became a member of the A. L. A. in 1889 and has been a warm supporter of its work ever since.

After such experience in library work it was natural that Mr Hayes should be found in 1895 connected with the formation of the Ohio library association; and in joint effort with the son of another president, Senator James R. Garfield, he was instrumental in getting a bill through the legislature for the appointment of a State library commission. Three commissioners were appointed by the governor, Mr Hayes for the longest term of six years.

Mr Hayes is a gentleman of cordial, winning manner and brilliant parts. His term of office will be marked not only by faithfulness, but by original and progressive methods and by a contagious enthusiasm

LUCY ELLIOT KEELER,  
Fremont, Ohio.

Sept. 11, 1896.

The Massachusetts library club will hold its annual meeting at Woburn by invitation of the trustees of the Woburn public library, on Wednesday, October 7, 1896, with the following program:

10.30—"Certain of the problems of a metropolitan library," by Herbert Putnam, Boston public library.

Mr. Putnam read this paper first at the Twentieth Century Club in Boston.

"The Cleveland conference," by H. C. Wellman, Boston Athenæum.

Lunch.

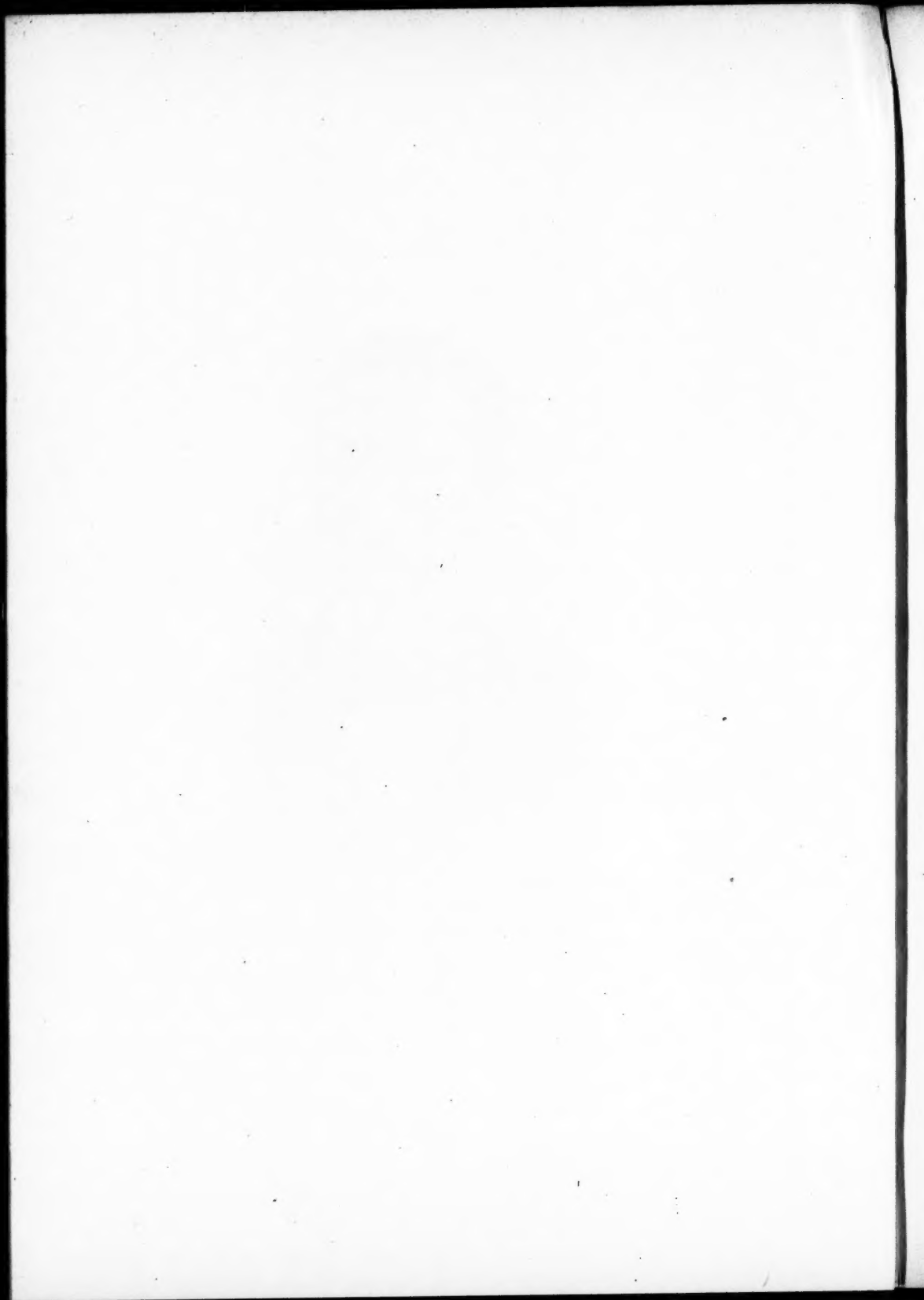
2.30—Reports, election of officers, miscellaneous business.

"Difficulties in the Dewey classification and their adjustment," by W. L. R. Gifford, Cambridge public library.





**Rutherford P. Hayes**  
Secretary of the American Library Association



**Mackinaw and Other Places**

Linda A. Eastman

From banquet hall to boat landing in sixty minutes! And such hurried good-byes, such hasty changing of costumes and checking of baggage as there was, and withal what a merry lot of people were the happy hundred and eight who steamed away from Cleveland soon after midnight on Friday, September 5.

After watching from the deck until the boat was well out into the lake and on her way, state rooms were sought and all "turned in" to rest in preparation for the day of pleasure that lay before them.

And a day of pleasure it was, heralded, in the early morning, by the beautiful little Detroit souvenirs that were presented, as by twos and threes and half dozens, the party emerged on deck to find themselves in the Detroit river, and soon at the City of the Straits itself. The Detroit people know how to be hospitable, and delightful breakfast parties were the first thing in order; then followed a pleasant and interesting visit to the library, and at eleven o'clock a jolly procession started out in carriages that were waiting, to drive through the beautiful streets of Detroit and over to Belle Isle, where a bountiful lunch was served at the Casino. The pilgrims next set out for the lighthouse landing, where the boat for the Flats was to pick them up; some took carriages, while others preferred to walk through the beautiful island paths and drives—and some of these others lost their way and wandered far, but were picked up by a good-natured park policeman and piloted to their destination. Then came a rain upon the unsheltered assembly, and there was a scattering to find such protection as was afforded by the trees and beneath the little bridge to the dock, but a few dauntless ones there were whose spirits could not be dampened though the heavens rained upon them, and these stood and sang under raised umbrellas, the old rollicking songs that are enough

to keep people happy in spite even of wet feet and threatened colds.

Before long the little steamer came and there followed the interesting ride up through Lake St Clair and the St Clair Flats, beautiful even in the rain. At Star Island regretful farewells were said to the little group who were obliged to turn back from there. It was nearly dark before the chilled travelers reached the Grande Pointe club house, but its cheery light and warmth were all-pervading, and oh, how good was the dinner which was served to its hungry guests! After dinner came an address of welcome from the president of the club, and a delightful time of story telling, less formal but almost more enjoyed than were the toasts of the evening before, and arranged for, it was said, to compensate for the cutting short of the speeches at the annual dinner; dancing followed, but at twelve o'clock the music ceased, and Sunday morning was ushered in by the formation of a class for the study of Bible conundrums, which proved to be so successfully conducted and so highly entertaining that peals of laughter soon attracted everyone about the little circle.

After a time however, overcome by drowsiness—quite excusable in the middle of the night and at the end of a week of A. L. L. dissipation—one after another stole away; those who were going no further, to their rooms and their beds; those who were going on, to settle down in quiet corners for a little rest, and soon the parlors showed nothing but librarians taking naps; the few who slept not, longed for flashlight and camera.

It was three o'clock in the morning before the sleepy company boarded the City of Mackinac and filed up to claim their state rooms and their baggage, wishing, while wearily waiting their turns, that the steamship company would adopt the Newark charging system.

All were comfortably in bed and asleep before daylight, however, and some tireless ones were up again to breakfast and out on deck all morning

enjoying the water. At dinner the A. L. A. was strong in numbers, but soon there began to be mysterious disappearances, and it was discovered later that with many of the party Saginaw Bay and seasickness had entered into their experience as cause and effect; calmer seas were ahead, though, and with the greater number the discomfort was of short duration. At Alpena energetic explorers went ashore and reported the population of the place as 15,000 (a fact which was only ascertained after five different natives had been unsuccessfully interviewed) and that a goodly number of the inhabitants were congregated in front of the hotel to hear the Newsboys Band of Detroit, who, all unappreciated, were honoring our party by being melodious fellow-passengers. Sunday evening so many retired that the plan for having religious services in the cabin was abandoned, but some few gathered on deck to chat, and these mostly gravitated into one seriously good-natured group and had a famous discussion on the money question.

Then all went to their berths to be literally rocked to sleep like babes by the waters, and woke next morning to find themselves at Mackinac Island; those opposed to early rising went over to St Ignace and back, and a few continued on up to the Sault, returning to Mackinac the next afternoon and reporting a delightful trip.

At Mackinac, Monday was spent by the greater number in driving or tramping about to the principal "points of interest" on the island—the Fort was visited, the battlefield, and British landing, and the view was taken from the site of Fort Holmes; the spot where stood the house of Anne was hunted up, and Cupid's pathway, and all of the places made famous by Miss Woolson's novel. The historic and literary interest is mentioned first, as better befitting the dignity of librarians, but in truth they evinced quite as healthy an interest in the purely romantic—they climbed the steps from the Wishing Well with mouths filled with water; they went

"From Arch Rock's height and shelving steep  
To western cliffs and Lover's Leap;"

They visited the Devil's Kitchen, Robertson's Folly, Sugar Loaf, and others of the natural beauties and wonders of the place.

After dinner that evening one of the tables was enlivened by some brilliant speeches, the occasion being the formal presentation to a very harmless appearing lady, of a gory hatchet bearing the inscription: "To one to whom the sight of blood is not distasteful!"

During the evening, the vast expanse of veranda at the Grand Hotel proved a favorite promenade.

The popular plan for Tuesday morning proved to be the steamer ride to St Ignace and back around the island. At St Ignace the grave of Marquette was visited and photographed, also the old church containing the picture of St Ignace; St Anthony's rock was pointed out, and some delicious bits of local tradition picked up, such as the story about St Anthony succeeding Pere Marquette in his missionary labors, and disguising himself from the Indians by wearing a Prince Albert coat!

A party of cyclers was organized for the afternoon, and walks and drives were also in order. At 8 p. m. all assembled in the hotel parlor for the final session of the conference; announcements were made, and then the interesting paper of the evening, "The story of Mackinac," was read by Mr Thwaites.

President Dana was afterward called to the floor, and presented, in the name of his friends the ladies, with some sweets for which he had been heard to express a desire; adjournment was then made to the Casino, where a hop was in progress.

On Wednesday morning many adieus were said and many handkerchiefs waved from steamer and dock, as at 8:30 the City of Mackinac steamed away with most of the eastern people, and again as a little later the Manitou carried off the Chicago friends. A sail was planned by those remaining, and in the afternoon the trip was made to



Les Chenaux Islands, or "The Snows," as they are known in local parlance. Thursday dawned cool and misty and during the morning a somewhat dreary rain set in, but nature lovers discovered many attractive gray day effects through the mist. Some were leaving on the Alpena in the afternoon, and these were escorted to the boat and waved out of sight; after they were gone the shops proved alluring, but the hotel fire was also inviting, and it was a very contented group that was found in the late afternoon enjoying that fire, and all deeply absorbed in a discussion of mooted questions in fiction, by way of sequel to a similar discussion of art held the evening before. An impromptu program of recitation and song was arranged for in the parlor that evening, in which time and place were appropriately remembered by the singing of "Mackinac, my Mackinac," and in the original "Tale of the bended trees."

On Friday the high officials left on the Manitou; it was rumored that they had been promised a "blow-out" in Chicago, and curious ones are still seeking to learn of what a librarian's "blow-out" may consist.

But seven survivors were left at the Grand; these on Saturday dwindled to three, and at 2 A. M. on the following Tuesday the last good-bye was said to Mackinac.

Such is the merest outline of a most delightful trip—for varied individual experiences, and for all of the tales that should be told, we must refer to each one of the seventy-eight who went.

Will those members of the Mackinac party who hold unused meal tickets on the D. & C. steamers kindly forward them to A. A. Schantz, G. P. & T. A., Detroit & Cleveland Steam. Nav. Co.? By a mistake of the ticket agent, ten tickets were given with each round trip passage, instead of seven. The extra tickets will be charged to the agent, and those having them will confer a kindness by returning them.

Respectfully,

E. C. H. MERRIMAN.

### Library Training Classes

**Armour**—The class in library science at Armour institute began work on September 17, with about twenty students. In addition to the regular work of the course, W. Irving Way, of Way & Williams, will give a course of ten lectures on bookmaking. Mr Way will also give a course of five lectures on the history and art of bookbinding, both courses to be fully illustrated.

Dr Gunsaulus will give a course of lectures on the history of printing. A course on public documents will be given this year for the first time.

All the members of the class of '96 are actively engaged in library work.

**Drexel**—The examination for entrance to the class at Drexel institute was given on September 24, to a large number of applicants, and the school opens October 1. Miss Kroeger, the director, spent some time abroad this summer.

**Pratt**—The class at Pratt institute began work on September 28, with twenty in the first year course and five in the second year. There were 110 applicants for admission, the majority of whom are from the East, though New Mexico and British Columbia were represented.

Of last year's graduates Agnes Elliott has been appointed an assistant at the Carnegie library at Pittsburg, and Katherine H. Jacobson as an assistant in the Bloomingdale branch of the New York free circulating library. Annie C. Moore has been put in charge of the children's room, of the institute library. Minna Stillman, of the class of '93, has been appointed librarian of the Baxter library at Rutland, Vermont; Caroline Burnite, class of '94, has been appointed to take charge of the library of Tome institute, Port Deposit, Md.; Mary E. Miller has been made librarian of the Equitable Life Insurance Co., New York City; Susan C. Foot, class of '94, has been made librarian of the South Orange free library; Charlotte Todd, class of '93, has become assistant in the library of the Union for Christian Work, in Brooklyn.

### A Village Library Successfully managed

Mentor is a village of but 500 people; therefore we are somewhat limited in our ability to raise funds for carrying on library work. But some six years ago 15 of us got together and began holding a series of meetings every month, something in the nature of the old New England township meeting, for the purpose of stirring up an interest in town affairs, and in doing that we considered it necessary to have some central point of interest around which we could all work, and we chose as that the library. There had never been a library in the village except a small circulating library. We all believed that the use of books and the greater knowledge of books would be a common center of interest around which we could all work and toward which we would be glad to give work. The result of five years' work in this way was that we now have a library of about 1,600 volumes, and two years ago, acting under a general law of the state, we became incorporated and requested the village council to levy a tax for the work of the library. We at that time had about 1,000 volumes. The council very readily saw the advantage of this kind of work. They appreciated what was being done for the citizens and schools of the state, and therefore they levied a tax and turned the proceeds of the tax over to the library board. In this way, you will see, the library board is kept entirely aloof from politics. There are no elections by the people, nor is the board appointed by any political officers. It is a self-constituted body, a corporate body under the laws of this state, and as long as we maintain our corporate existence the village may turn over the funds to the library. We settled this difficulty of women's rights by having an equal number of both men and women on the board, and then in order to avoid the question of disruption of families we made the other member of the family who was not on, an honorary member of the board. In this way we increased

the number of workers and at the same time satisfied the desire of many people to hold office.

But we found that 15, together with the supernumerary and honorary members, were unwieldy, and the work practically devolved upon very few of the members. Therefore, when we incorporated, we made an executive board consisting of five members, and they had absolute management of the library proper. They are elected every year from the members of the association, the 15 and these others, and they have absolute control of the library. In this way we have found it very easy to accomplish the work we have set out to do.

I have stated this result of our work to show what can be done. I believe that one of the best and easiest methods of education is through the library; that we reach all classes, all ages and all kinds of people, and by making the library an adjunct of the public school system, we add materially to the advantages that may be offered to the pupils. Although our library is supported by the village, we make it absolutely free to any one who desires to use it. Those outside the village or township are required to put up a nominal deposit, merely for the safe return of the book. We made this the ideal toward which we are working—that the friendship of books is like the friendship of men, it is worth nothing and avails nothing unless it is used constantly and improved constantly.

JAMES R. GARFIELD.

A supplement to Reading for the Young, by J. F. Sargent, has been prepared by his sisters, both practical librarians, which brings the list up to the end of 1895. The catalog, which includes also the titles of articles contained in the Young People's periodicals, is classified on general lines, with many notes indicating the special merits and qualities of the various books. The book is published for the A. L. A. publishing section by the Library Bureau and is about ready for issue.

## News from the Library Field

## East

Viola Tuttle has been elected librarian of Acton Centre (Mass.)

C. F. Holman has been elected librarian of Nashua (N. H.)

C. H. Greenleaf has been elected librarian of the Chelmsford Center (Mass.) library.

The work on the library building at Portsmouth (N. H.) has been finished, and the building turned over to the city.

The Fair Haven (Vt.) public library has been enlarged by the addition of another room. It now has about 3,500v.

Edith D. Aitkin and Edith Campbell have been appointed librarians of the new public library at Thompsonville (Conn.)

New Haven (Conn.) public library has received a fine collection of lithographic engravings illustrative of Indian art from a Maharajah of India.

Isabelle A. Kerr has resigned her position as librarian of the public library of Danielson (Conn.) Emma C. Hammond has been chosen as her successor.

The new public library of Williamsbury (Mass.) is being put in shape. About 2,500 volumes have been received and are being classified by Sarah J. Morse, of Brooklyn.

## Central Atlantic

The public library of Montclair (N. J.) has already outgrown its quarters in the three years it has been opened, and plans are being laid for a new library building. The hours of remaining open have been increased.

George Watson Cole who was obliged to resign as librarian of Jersey City on account of illness, has entirely recovered his health and is ready to enter again actively into work. Mr Cole was elected treasurer of the A. L. A. at Cleveland.

James Douglas, president of the Copper Queen Co., of New York and Arizona, is a staunch supporter of public libraries. He has founded in Kingsbridge, New York City, in Bisbee and Prescott, Arizona, free public libraries each with a commodious reading room. Mr. Douglas is the author of a volume on the Canadian question in Questions of the day series, and is also a contributor to the *Outlook* and the *Nation*.

A Japanese tea and curio exhibit was given on August 7 and 8, at the home of Dorcas Hull, Milton-on-the-Hudson, New York, for the benefit of the Sarah H. Hallock free library. There were collections from Egypt, Japan, Syria, Hawaii, Bermuda and many other places; an Egyptian mask 3,000 years old, articles of old colonial times, and modern pictures were exhibited. There was dancing each evening, and refreshments were served. It was a very enjoyable affair, and financially as well as socially a great success.

## Central

Chas. H. Evans has been elected librarian of the Chicago Historical society.

Geo. W. Shea has given \$500 toward founding a teachers' library in O'Brien county, Iowa.

Virginia Dodge of the class of '96 of Armour institute library class has been appointed librarian of Cedar Rapids.

The Ladies' Library Association of Owosso, (Mich.) report 2,750v. in the library, and an active circulation.

A library association has been formed in Columbia, (Ill.), and a public library will soon be opened with F. Divers librarian.

Maude Straight of the class of '96 of Armour institute has been engaged to organize the Young Men's library at Dubuque, (Ia.)

The library at De Pere (Wis.) is being reorganized. A full outfit of Library Bureau supplies will be used in this library. Emma M. Mortag is in charge.

Riverside (Ill.) has taken step toward a new public library and hopes to have it organized and ready for use by November 1. Willard C. Gore will be in charge of it.

The greater part of the reference books of the Chicago public library has been removed to the new library building. The circulating library will not be moved until spring.

The public library started in Rockville (Ill.) in June with 3,400v., reports a steady circulation of 800v. a week, a fair proportion of which is non-fiction. G. Keating is librarian.

Marked progress in work and interest is reported from Joliet, (Ill.) public library. Steps have been taken toward a new library building to cost \$130,000. Mrs S. C. McIntosh is librarian.

The newly elected library board of Indianapolis is beginning on several plans for the improvement of the library. Four branch libraries will soon be opened in the four extremes of the city and several sub-stations in various other parts of the city.

Electra C. Doren has been elected librarian of the Dayton, (O.) public library. Miss Doren has for years done efficient work as assistant librarian in the same library, and has spent the past year in the East, making an extended study of library methods.

The library board of Sioux City (Ia.) has levied three-tenths mill on the dollar for the library fund. Mrs R. A. Oberholtzer was re-elected librarian and M. Buchanan, assistant. The report shows 1,000v. added during the year and 41,000v. circulated; salaries \$1,401.20.

The annual report of Reddick library, Ottawa, (Ill.), shows the no. of books in library to be 8,465; no. added the past year 887; no. of books drawn 27,078. Mrs N. D. Nash, librarian, with one assistant, has recataloged the library. It is classified on the D. C. plan, issues a finding list and has a subject card catalog.

Several eastern newspapers commenting on the Chicago public library having the largest circulation of any public library in the world, give John Vance Cheney as librarian. This is wrong. F. H. Hild is the man to whose efficient work Chicago is indebted for this state of affairs. Mr Cheney is at the Newberry library which is a reference library and very conservative in its work.

#### South

Lina Harvey has been elected librarian of the public library at Clarksville (Tenn.)

The Young Men's library of Atlanta (Ga.) is in a growing condition, owing to the enthusiastic efforts of Anne Wallace, the librarian. Personal appeals, circular letters and special invitations are used to interest the people in the library and these means are bearing fruit.

A recent report of the Garland Ferguson library at Long Beach (Miss.) shows that in the ten months it has been opened its 800v. have circulated nearly four times. The foundation of a new building is laid and through the efforts of a few public spirited citizens the library will soon be in a home of its own.

#### West

A. P. Stokes of New York has given a building and \$1,000 for a public library in Austin, Nev.

#### Pacific Coast

The public library at Livermore, (Cal.) has been opened. Mrs Harp is librarian.

The quarters of the Los Angeles (Cal.) public library have been enlarged to take in the entire third floor of the city hall.

Extensive improvements will be made in the library building of Santa Barbara (Cal.) and the library will be closed for a time.



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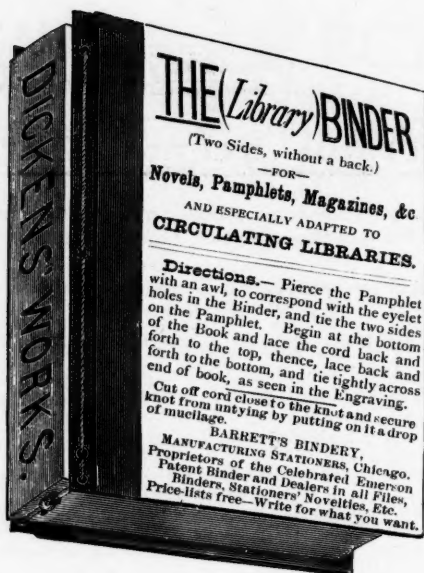
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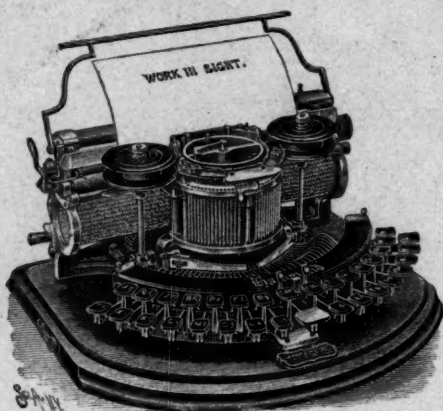
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